

Supporting Information

Oxidative alkylarylation of α -aryl allylic alcohols through direct C-H bond functionalization by photoredox catalysis

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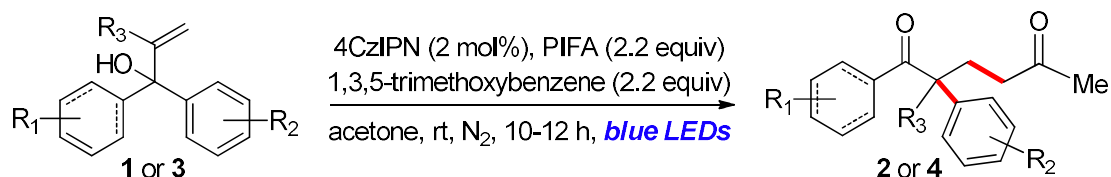
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Materials and methods

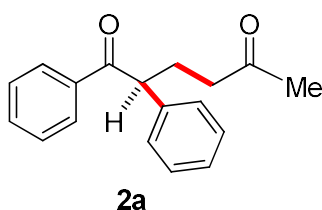
All the chemicals were purchased commercially, and used without further purification. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with 0.25 mm Tsingdao silica gel plates (60F-254) and visualized by exposure to UV light (254 nm) or stained with potassium permanganate. Flash column chromatography was performed using Tsingdao silica gel (60, particle size 0.040–0.063 mm). Reagents were purchased at the highest commercial quality and used without further purification, unless otherwise stated. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL spectrometers (at 400 MHz) and were reported relative to deuterated solvent signals. Data for ^1H NMR spectra were reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz) and integration. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL Spectrometers (at 100 MHz). Data for ^{13}C NMR spectra were reported in terms of chemical shift. Mass spectrometric data were obtained using Bruker Apex IV RTMS. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad.

General procedure for 1,5-diketone synthesis



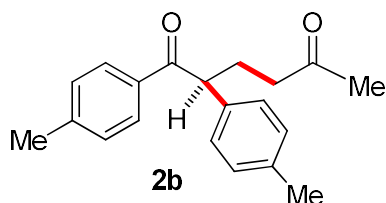
A flame-dried round bottom flask was equipped with magnetic stir bar and charged with α -aryl allylic alcohols **1** or **3** (0.143 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $PhI(OCOCF_3)_2$ (0.314 mmol, 2.2 equiv), 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (0.314 mmol, 2.2 equiv), 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(carbazol-9-yl)-4,6-dicyanobenzene (4CzIPN) (0.0029 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and acetone (6.0 mL). The reaction mixture was degassed by purging thoroughly with nitrogen for 10 minutes, then irradiated by blue LEDs (18 W) under a balloon nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature until the starting material disappeared from the TLC. After that the reaction mixture was directly concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane/EtOAc (6/1 to 3/1) to afford the desired pure product **2** or **4** in 56-92% yields.

1H and ^{13}C spectra data of compounds **2a-2l**, **4a-4x**

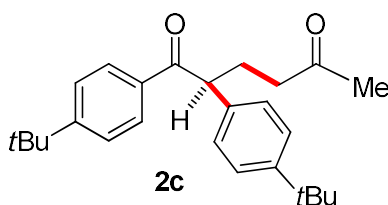


1,2-diphenylhexane-1,5-dione (2a): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 4.67-4.63 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.32 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.04 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 208.7, 199.6, 139.1, 136.6, 133.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.3, 52.3,

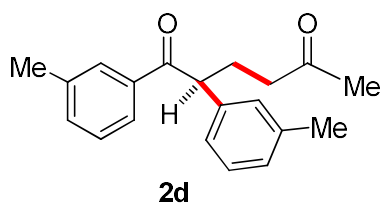
41.0, 30.1, 27.7. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 29.6 mg, 78% isolated yield)



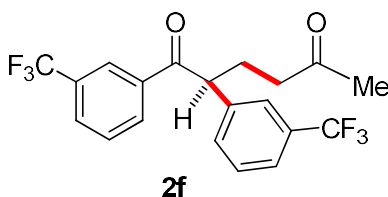
1,2-di-*p*-tolylhexane-1,5-dione (2b): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 2H), 4.58 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.11-2.05 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.8, 199.3, 143.8, 136.9, 136.2, 134.2, 129.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.2, 51.8, 41.2, 30.1, 27.7, 21.7, 21.1. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 24.4 mg, 77% isolated yield)



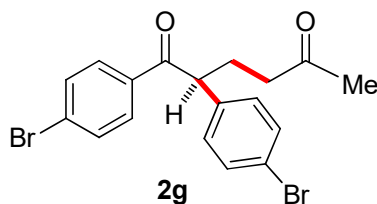
1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (2c): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.62-4.59 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.36 (m, 3H), 2.15-2.08 (m, 4H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.27 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.8, 199.3, 156.7, 150.0, 136.0, 134.2, 128.9, 127.9, 126.0, 125.6, 51.6, 41.3, 35.1, 34.5, 31.4, 31.1, 30.1, 27.9; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 401.2457, found: 401.2442. (Pale yellow solid, 37.3 mg, 81% isolated yield)



1,2-di-*m*-tolylhexane-1,5-dione (2d): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.98 (m, 1H), 4.59 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.50-2.32 (m, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.13-2.05 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.7, 199.9, 139.1, 138.8, 138.4, 136.8, 133.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 126.1, 125.5, 52.2, 41.2, 30.1, 27.8, 21.5, 21.4; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 317.1517, found: 317.1525. (Yellow oil, 28.5 mg, 73% isolated yield)

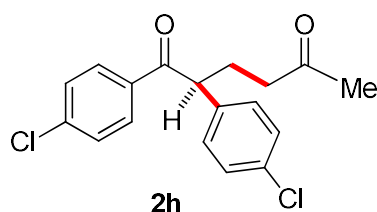


1,2-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (2f): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 1H), 4.57 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.06 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.2, 203.1, 141.3, 135.7, 133.6, 133.5, 131.5, 130.2, 129.2, 128.8, 127.3, 118.7, 55.8, 40.8, 30.1, 26.3. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Yellow oil, 20.8 mg, 56% isolated yield)

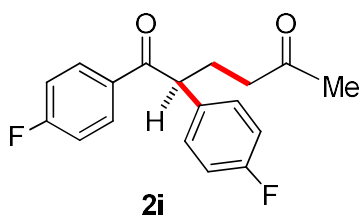


1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (2g): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79

(d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.59 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.45-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.00 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.4, 198.3, 137.7, 135.0, 132.4, 132.1, 130.3, 130.0, 128.5, 121.6, 51.5, 40.6, 30.2, 27.4. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 25.3 mg, 73% isolated yield)

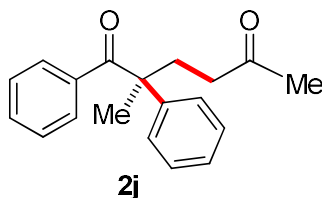


1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (2h): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.61 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.42-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.12-2.00 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.4, 198.1, 139.7, 137.2, 134.7, 133.5, 130.2, 129.7, 129.4, 129.0, 51.4, 40.6, 30.2, 27.5. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Yellow solid, 32.1 mg, 89% isolated yield)

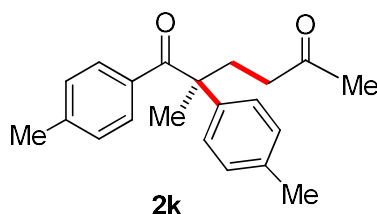


1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (2i): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.63 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.13-2.02 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.6, 198.0, 167.0, 163.3, 160.9, 134.6, 132.8, 131.5, 131.4, 129.9, 129.8, 116.2, 116.0, 115.9, 115.7, 51.2, 40.8, 30.2, 27.7. These data are consistent

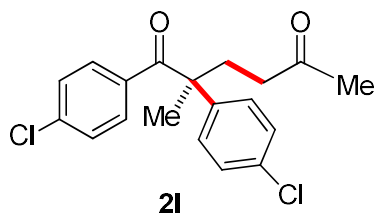
with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Yellow oil, 30.9 mg, 84% isolated yield)



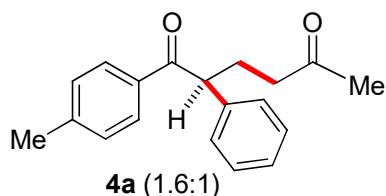
2-methyl-1,2-diphenylhexane-1,5-dione (2j): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.19 (m, 5H), 2.39-2.20 (m, 4H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.5, 203.1, 143.6, 136.3, 131.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.1, 127.2, 126.3, 54.0, 39.1, 33.9, 30.0, 24.2; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 303.1361, found: 303.1356. (Pale yellow solid, 22.6 mg, 60% isolated yield)



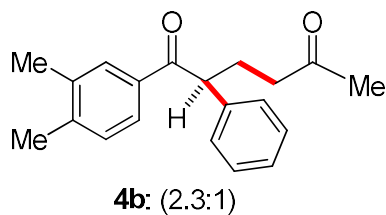
2-methyl-1,2-di-*p*-tolylhexane-1,5-dione (2k): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.10 (m, 4H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.40-2.20 (m, 10H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.7, 202.8, 142.6, 140.9, 136.7, 133.6, 129.9, 129.7, 128.8, 126.2, 53.5, 39.2, 34.0, 30.0, 24.5, 21.5, 21.1; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 331.1674, found: 331.1671. (Yellow solid, 26.8 mg, 63% isolated yield)



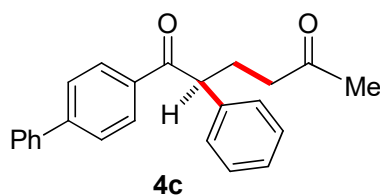
1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylhexane-1,5-dione (2l): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.18 (m, 4H), 2.38-2.10 (m, 4H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.1, 201.3, 142.0, 138.7, 134.0, 133.4, 131.1, 129.5, 128.6, 127.7, 53.6, 38.9, 33.7, 30.1, 24.3; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{Cl}_2\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 371.0582, found: 371.0575. (Pale yellow solid, 24.0 mg, 56% isolated yield)



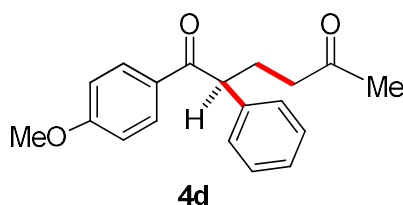
2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4a): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 ; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by §) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, $0.7\text{H}^{\S}$), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1.3H^*), 7.52-7.46 (m, $0.30\text{H}^{\S}$), 7.42-7.35 (m, 0.70H^*), 7.32-7.25 (m, $3.0\text{H}^{\S}$), 7.24-7.08 (m, 3.0H^*), 4.64-4.59 (m, 1.0H), 2.49-2.32 (m, 5.0H), 2.28 (s, 1.2H), 2.15-2.02 (m, 4.0H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 ; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.7, 199.2, 143.9, 139.3, 134.1, 133.0, 129.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.3, 52.1, 51.9, 41.1, 41.0, 30.1, 27.7, 27.6, 21.7, 21.1; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$): 281.1542, found: 281.1528. (Yellow oil, 20.1 mg, 60% isolated yield)



1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4b): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 ; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by §) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.6H), 7.42 (s, 0.7H), 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.8H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 0.4H §), 7.39-7.35 (m, 0.8H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2.4H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 0.8H), 7.14-7.10 (s, 0.8H §), 7.06-6.98 (m, 1.0H), 4.65-4.60 (m, 0.7H*), 4.59-4.54 (m, 0.3H §), 2.47-2.33 (m, 3.0H), 2.25-2.16 (m, 7.0H), 2.13-2.08 (m, 4.0H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 ; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.8, 199.5, 142.7, 139.4, 137.0, 133.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.2, 126.6, 125.9, 52.0, 51.9, 41.2, 30.0, 27.8, 20.0, 19.9, 19.4. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 22.9 mg, 63% isolated yield)

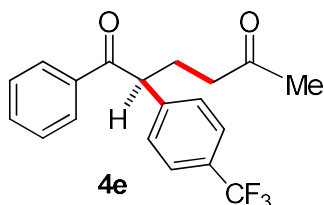


1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4c): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 5H), 7.42-7.28 (m, 8H), 4.72-4.69 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.7, 199.6, 140.6, 140.2, 138.1, 136.7, 133.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 127.1, 51.9, 41.1, 30.1, 27.7; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 365.1517, found: 365.1508. (Pale yellow solid, 34.6 mg, 88% isolated yield)

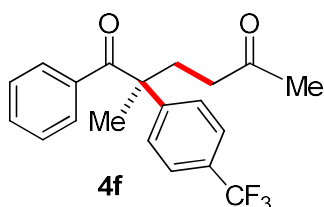


1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4d): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.62-4.55 (m,

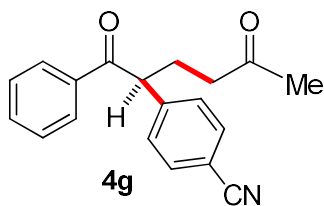
1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.50-2.31 (m, 3H), 2.16-2.04 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.8, 198.1, 163.4, 139.5, 131.2, 129.6, 129.1, 128.3, 127.2, 113.8, 55.5, 51.9, 41.2, 30.1, 27.8; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 319.1310, found: 319.1306. (Yellow oil, 28.2 mg, 82% isolated yield)



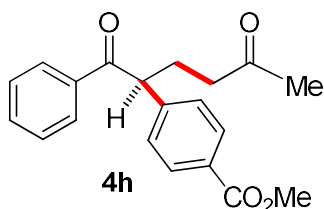
1-phenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4e): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 4H), 4.78 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.22-2.03 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.3, 199.0, 143.1, 136.3, 133.5, 129.8, 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 126.1, 126.0, 122.7, 51.8, 40.8, 30.1, 27.7; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 357.1078, found: 357.1077. (Pale yellow solid, 27.9 mg, 77% isolated yield)



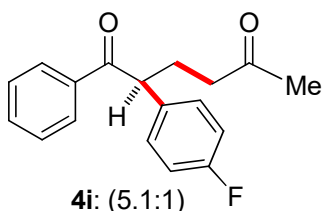
2-methyl-1-phenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4f): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.20 (m, 4H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.0, 202.2, 148.1, 135.7, 132.4, 129.6, 128.4, 127.8, 127.6, 126.6, 126.1, 54.0, 38.9, 33.8, 30.1, 24.5; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 371.1235, found: 371.1229. (Pale yellow solid, 32.7 mg, 80% isolated yield)



4-(1,5-dioxo-1-phenylhexan-2-yl)benzonitrile (4g): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 4H), 4.81-4.78 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.38 (m, 3H), 2.15-2.02 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.2, 198.7, 144.6, 136.2, 133.7, 132.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 118.6, 111.3, 51.9, 40.7, 30.2, 27.6; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 314.1157, found: 314.1149. (Pale yellow solid, 34.1 mg, 92% isolated yield)

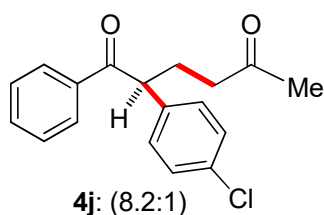


methyl 4-(1,5-dioxo-1-phenylhexan-2-yl)benzoate (4h): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02-7.90 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 4H), 4.77-4.73 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.50-2.38 (m, 3H), 2.19-2.03 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.4, 199.1, 166.8, 144.3, 136.4, 133.3, 130.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 52.2, 52.1, 40.8, 30.2, 27.5; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$): 325.1440, found: 325.1432. (Pale yellow solid, 25.3 mg, 61% isolated yield)

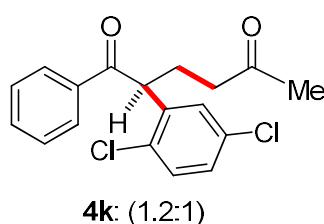


2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4i): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 ; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by §) δ 8.02-7.91 (m, 2.0H),

7.36-7.20 (m, 5.0H), 7.10-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.70-4.65 (m, 0.16H[§]), 4.63-4.59 (m, 0.80H*), 2.49-2.31 (m, 4.0H), 2.21-2.04 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.7, 198.0, 164.4, 138.9, 133.2, 132.9, 131.5, 131.4, 129.9, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.5, 115.8, 115.6, 52.2, 51.3, 40.9, 31.1, 30.1, 29.8, 27.6. HRMS calculated for C₁₈H₁₈FO₂ (M + H⁺): 285.1291, found: 285.1280. (Pale yellow solid, 27.0 mg, 72% isolated yield)

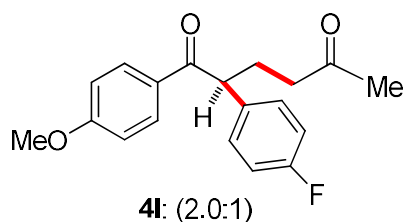


2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4j): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.18 (m, 4H), 4.68-4.65 (m, 1H), 2.45-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.15-2.01 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.5, 199.4, 137.6, 136.4, 133.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 51.4, 40.8, 30.1, 27.6; HRMS calculated for C₁₈H₁₇ClNaO₂ (M + Na⁺): 323.0815, found: 323.0783. (Pale yellow solid, 32.1 mg, 87% isolated yield)

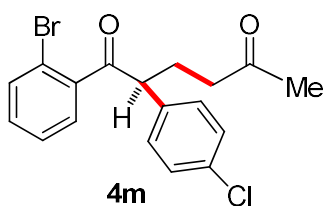


2-(2,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4k): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by §) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 0.47H[§]), 7.46-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.03 (s, 0.53H*), 5.12 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.47H*), 4.43 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 0.58H*), 2.55-2.32 (m, 3H), 2.20-1.95 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.2, 207.9, 201.5, 198.7, 140.7, 138.7,

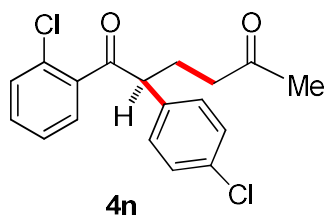
136.7, 133.6, 132.8, 131.9, 131.5, 131.3, 131.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 56.7, 47.8, 40.8, 30.1, 30.0, 27.2, 26.2; HRMS calculated for $C_{18}H_{17}Cl_2O_2$ ($M + H^+$): 335.0606, found: 335.0591. (Pale yellow solid, 40.7 mg, 75% isolated yield)



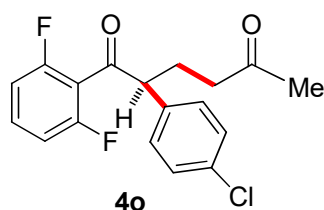
2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4l): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by §) δ 7.99-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19-6.90 (m, 4H), 6.88-6.78 (m, 2H), 4.60 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.63H*), 4.53 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.34H §), 3.78-3.68 (m, 3H), 2.39-2.32 (m, 3H), 2.10-2.01 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.6, 198.1, 163.6, 131.5, 131.4, 131.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.4, 116.0, 115.8, 114.6, 113.9, 93.0, 55.5, 55.3, 51.3, 50.9, 41.0, 40.9, 30.1, 27.9, 27.6; HRMS calculated for $C_{19}H_{19}FNaO_3$ ($M + Na^+$): 337.1216, found: 337.1207. (Yellow solid, 31.4 mg, 86% isolated yield)



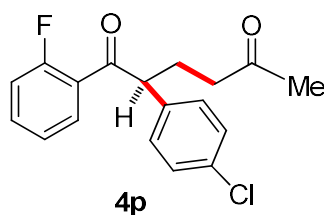
1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4m): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.41 (m, 5H), 4.78 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.05 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 208.2, 197.8, 139.4, 136.7, 131.9, 131.7, 129.8, 129.5, 125.7, 125.1, 124.6, 51.9, 40.5, 30.2, 27.6; HRMS calculated for $C_{18}H_{16}BrClNaO_2$ ($M + Na^+$): 400.9920, found: 400.9912. (Pale yellow solid, 19.8 mg, 56% isolated yield)



1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4n): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.06 (m, 4H), 4.52-4.42 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.38 (m, 3H), 2.18-2.02 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.2, 202.7, 139.3, 135.9, 133.6, 131.6, 130.5, 130.4, 130.1, 129.2, 129.0, 126.8, 55.9, 40.8, 30.1, 26.4. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 32.7 mg, 91% isolated yield)

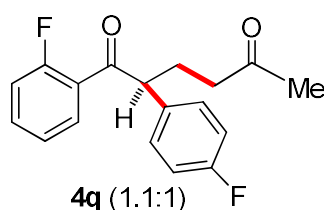


2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2,6-difluorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4o): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.88-7.80 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.23 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.10-1.98 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.0, 196.7, 160.6, 158.2, 135.4, 133.7, 132.4, 130.0, 129.2, 112.1, 111.9, 58.0, 40.8, 30.1, 26.0; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClF}_2\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 359.0626, found: 359.0612. (Yellow oil, 33.3 mg, 77% isolated yield)

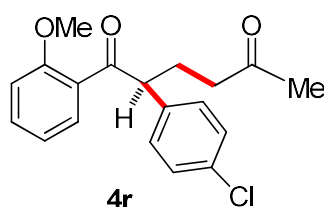


2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2-fluorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4p): ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 7.75-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 3H), 7.08-6.99 (m, 1H), 4.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.38 (m, 3H), 2.14-2.01 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.2, 198.4, 136.6, 134.6, 134.5, 133.4, 131.1, 130.0, 129.1, 125.9, 124.6, 124.6, 116.8, 116.6, 55.8, 55.7, 41.1, 30.1, 27.3; HRMS calculated for C₁₈H₁₆ClFNaO₂ (M + Na⁺): 341.0721, found: 341.0714. (Yellow oil, 30.8 mg, 84% isolated yield)

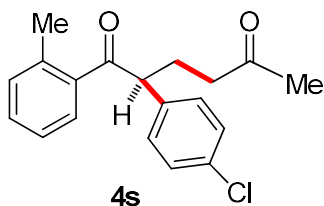


1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4q): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by [§]) δ 7.98-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 0.5H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 0.5H), 7.22-7.11 (m, 3H), 7.07-6.99 (m, 3H), 6.96-6.92 (m, 1H), 4.94-4.90 (m, 0.54H*), 4.52-4.49 (m, 0.46H[§]), 2.51-2.36 (m, 3H), 2.09-2.04 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.3, 208.2, 198.7, 197.4, 17.1, 164.5, 163.4, 162.3, 161.3, 160.9, 159.7, 158.9, 134.5, 134.4, 133.8, 132.5, 131.3, 131.2, 131.1, 130.3, 130.2, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 126.0, 125.8, 125.0, 124.9, 124.6, 124.5, 116.8, 116.6, 115.9, 115.8, 115.7, 115.6, 55.7, 55.6, 43.6, 41.1, 40.7, 30.1, 27.4, 26.6; HRMS calculated for C₁₈H₁₇F₂O₂ (M + H⁺): 303.1197, found: 303.1194. (Yellow oil, 19.2 mg, 52% isolated yield)

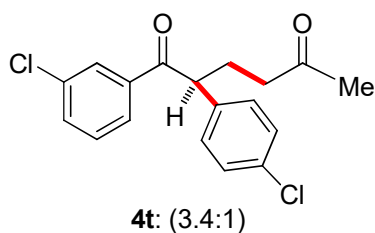


2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4r): ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.00 (m, 4H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H), 4.72-4.61 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.50-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.15-1.96 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.4, 202.8, 157.8, 137.6, 133.4, 132.9, 130.6, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 120.8, 111.5, 55.7, 55.4, 41.3, 30.0, 27.4; HRMS calculated for C₁₉H₁₉ClNaO₃ (M + Na⁺): 353.0920, found: 353.0906. (Pale yellow solid, 26.0 mg, 67% isolated yield)

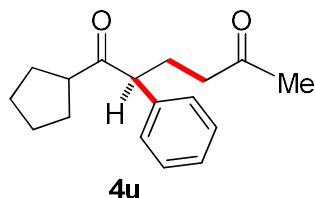


2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(o-tolyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4s): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.11 (m, 7H), 4.49 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.32 (m, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.15-2.02 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.4, 203.3, 138.2, 138.2, 136.8, 133.3, 131.9, 131.3, 129.8, 129.2, 128.1, 125.7, 54.4, 40.9, 30.1, 26.9, 21.0; HRMS calculated for C₁₉H₁₉ClNaO₂ (M + Na⁺): 337.0971, found: 337.0962. (Yellow oil, 26.1 mg, 71% isolated yield)

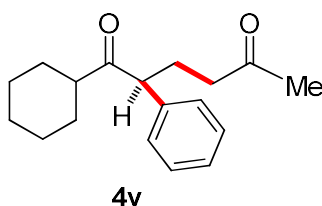


1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)hexane-1,5-dione (4t): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃; the major product is designated by *, minor product denoted by [§]) δ 7.92-7.85 (m, 1.6H*), 7.82-7.78 (m, 0.4H[§]), 7.50-7.46 (m, 0.4H[§]), 7.40-7.10 (m, 5.6H), 4.63-4.59 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.30 (m, 3H), 2.15-2.00 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃; compounds exist as a mixture of major and minor products) δ 208.3, 198.1, 197.9, 140.7, 139.8, 134.6, 133.2, 130.4, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 126.9, 126.6, 51.7, 51.6, 40.7, 30.2, 27.5, 27.4; HRMS calculated for

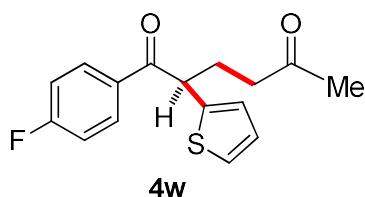
$C_{18}H_{16}Cl_2NaO_2$ ($M + Na^+$): 357.0425, found: 357.0418. (Yellow solid, 28.9 mg, 80% isolated yield)



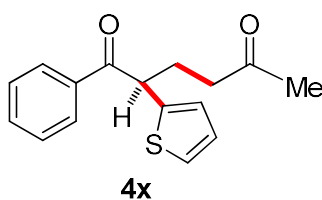
1-cyclopentyl-2-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4u): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.38-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 2H), 3.82-3.75 (m, 1H), 2.90-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.20 (m, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.00-1.80 (m, 2H); 1.70-1.35 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 212.7, 208.6, 138.5, 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 57.1, 50.6, 41.1, 30.4, 30.0, 28.8, 26.4, 26.1, 26.0; HRMS calculated for $C_{17}H_{22}NaO_2$ ($M + Na^+$): 281.1517, found: 281.1535. (Pale yellow solid, 31.5 mg, 82% isolated yield)



1-cyclohexyl-2-phenylhexane-1,5-dione (4v): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.35-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 3.87-3.83 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.16 (m, 4H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.95-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.68-1.55 (m, 2H); 1.45-1.03 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 213.1, 208.6, 138.4, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 55.7, 50.1, 41.1, 30.0, 29.3, 28.2, 26.7, 26.0, 25.8, 25.3; HRMS calculated for $C_{18}H_{25}O_2$ ($M + H^+$): 273.1855, found: 273.1840. (Pale yellow solid, 26.6 mg, 79% isolated yield)

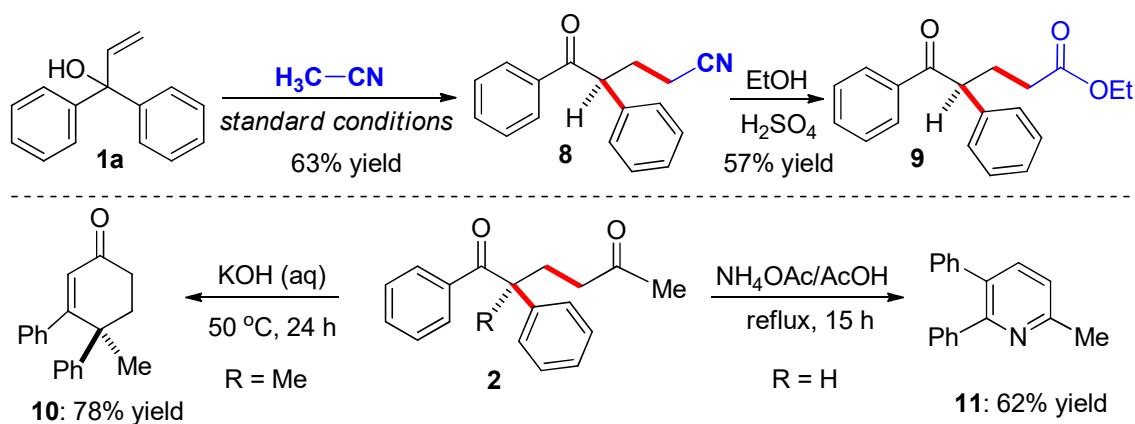


1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)hexane-1,5-dione (4w): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.12-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.85 (m, 2H), 4.98 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.31 (m, 3H), 2.19-2.08 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.5, 197.1, 140.9, 131.6, 131.5, 127.1, 126.1, 125.4, 116.0, 115.8, 46.5, 40.5, 30.2, 28.5; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 313.0674, found: 313.0672. (Yellow oil, 23.2 mg, 70% isolated yield)

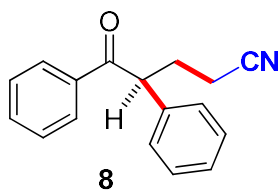


1-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)hexane-1,5-dione (4x): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.03 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.86 (m, 2H), 5.02 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.33 (m, 3H); 2.20-2.02 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.4, 198.7, 141.1, 136.1, 133.4, 128.9, 128.8, 127.0, 126.1, 125.3, 46.5, 40.6, 30.2, 28.6; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$): 295.0769, found: 295.0822. (Yellow oil, 30.9 mg, 82% isolated yield)

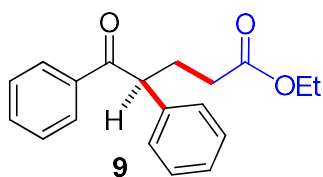
Illustrative synthetic transformations



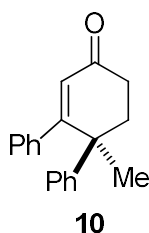
^1H and ^{13}C spectra data of compounds 8-11



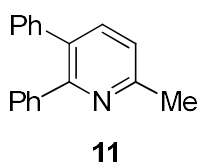
5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanenitrile (8): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 1H), 4.75-4.72 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.34 (m, 2H); 2.30-2.12 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3, 137.6, 136.0, 133.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 119.4, 52.0, 29.1, 15.3. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2015, **2**, 216. (Pale yellow solid, 24.4 mg, 63% isolated yield)



ethyl 5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanoate (9): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 4.68 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.10 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H); 2.51-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.11 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.4, 173.4, 138.9, 136.6, 133.0, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.4, 60.5, 52.5, 31.9, 28.9, 14.3; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$): 297.1491, found: 297.1477. (Pale yellow solid, 16.0 mg, 57% isolated yield)



1'-methyl-5',6'-dihydro-[1,1':2',1''-terphenyl]-4'(1'H)-one (10): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.18-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.43 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.29 (m, 3H), 2.12-2.02 (m, 1H); 1.54 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.0, 166.0, 143.6, 139.1, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.9, 127.0, 126.9, 43.7, 42.0, 34.1, 28.1; HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$): 263.1436, found: 263.1424. (Pale yellow solid, 32.3 mg, 78% isolated yield)



6-methyl-2,3-diphenylpyridine (11): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.01 (m, 9H), 2.66 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.2, 156.6, 140.5, 140.1, 138.9, 133.2, 130.0, 129.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.7, 127.0, 121.8, 24.5. These data are consistent with literature values, see: X. Chu, H. Meng, Y. Zi, X. Xu and S.-J. Ji, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 17198. (Pale yellow solid, 30.6 mg, 62% isolated yield)

On-off switching of the visible light irradiation

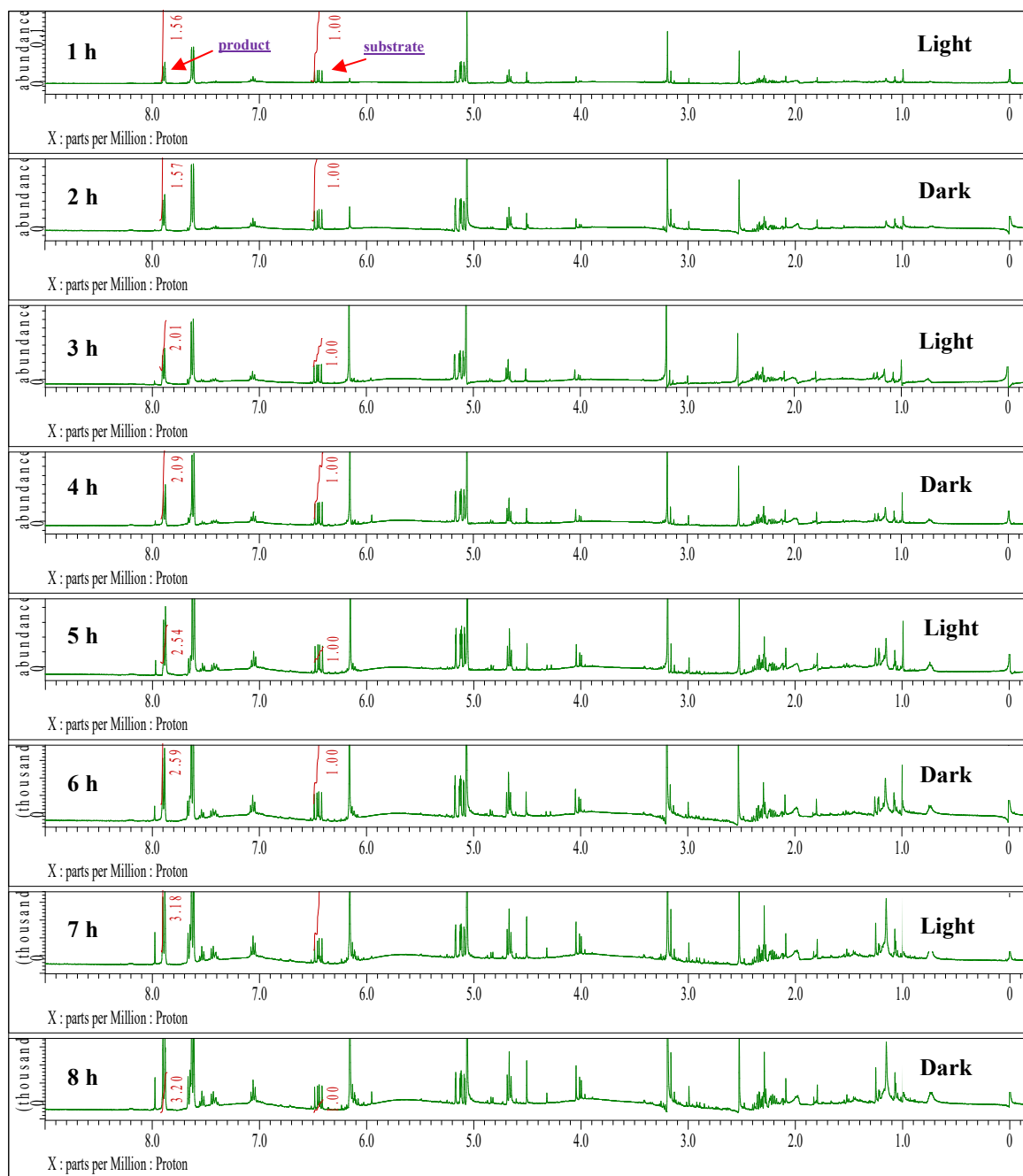


Figure (a). ^1H NMR spectra copies of reaction of **1a** and acetone with different reaction time

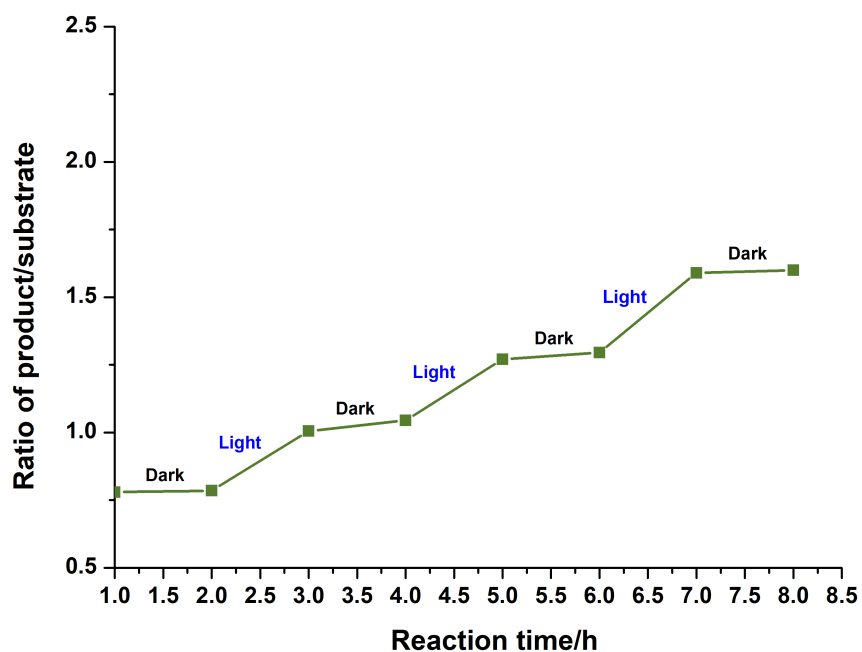


Figure (b). Time profile of visible-light-enabled oxidative alkylarylation of **1a** and acetone

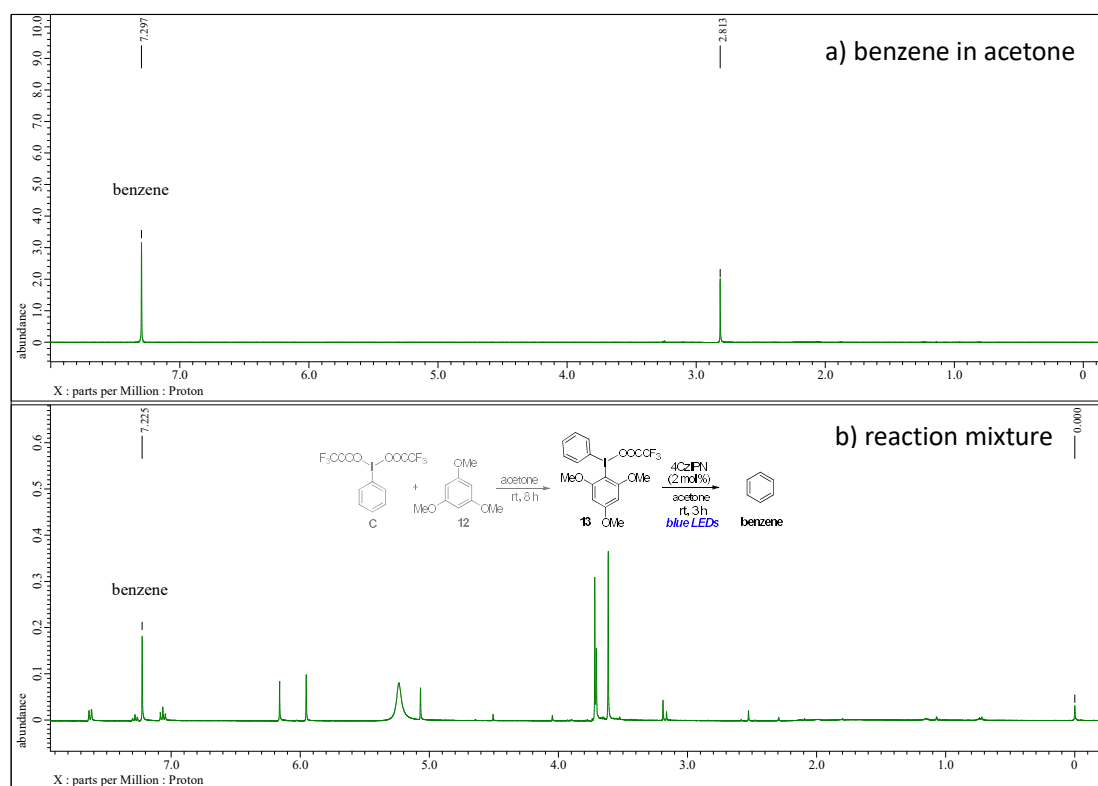
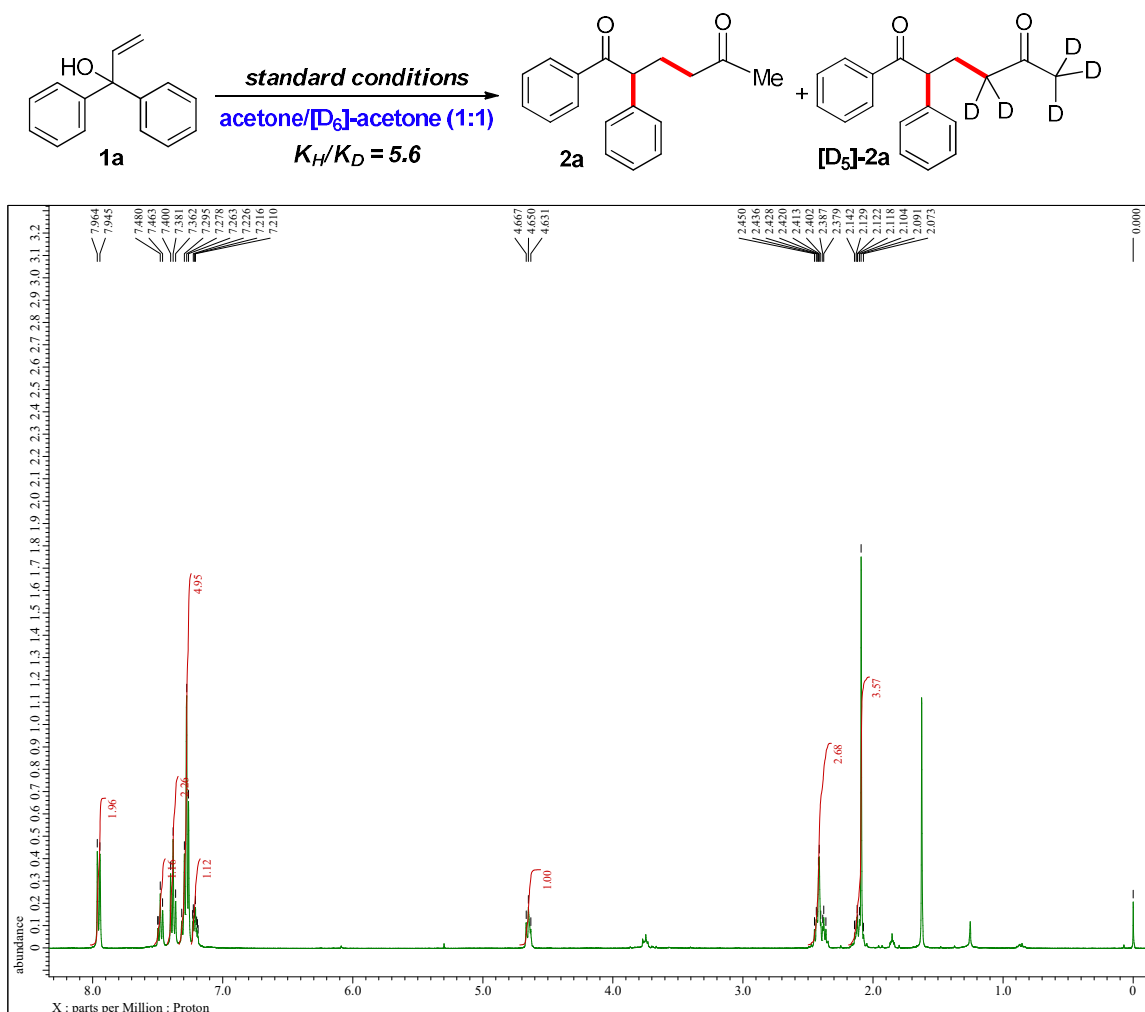


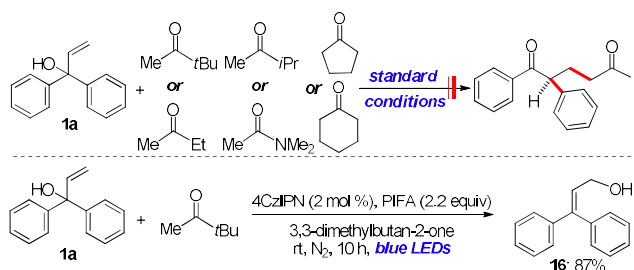
Figure (c). The experiment to confirm the generation of benzene

Experiment on kinetic isotope effect



A significant kinetic isotope effect ($K_H/K_D = 5.6$) was observed in the model reaction, which provided a direct evidence that the event of C-H bond cleavage might have constituted a rate-determining step.

Examinations of other ketones and amides under standard reaction conditions



In this work, other ketones and amides, such as butan-2-one and 3,3-dimethylbutan-2-one, and *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, had also been carefully examined. However, we did not obtain the desired products under standard reaction conditions.

Copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

