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Electronic Supplementary Information

Access to 3,3-Disubstituted Oxindoles via Microwave-Assisted Cannizzaro and Aldol Reactions of Formaldehyde with Isatins and their Imines

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1. General Information

Commercially available materials purchased from Alfa Aesar or Aldrich was used as received. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR; 400 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (ppm, δ) relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00). ¹H NMR splitting patterns were designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), dd (doublet of doublets); m (multiplets), and etc. All first order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted are designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (¹³C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruke AV400 (400 MHz) (100 MHz) spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra analysis (HRMS) was performed on Waters Q-tof Premier mass spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained with a Finnigan MAT 95 XP mass spectrometer (Thermo Electron Corporation). Flash chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60 with distilled solvents. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck 60 F254 pre-coated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness). Visualization was performed using a UV lamp.

2. Procedure for K₂CO₃ catalyzed Cannizzaro reaction between Isatins/Isatinketoimines and Formaldehyde



All substituted isatin and isatinketoimine substrates were synthesized according to literatures.¹⁻³ A standard microwave reaction vessel was charged with paraformaldehyde **2** (3.0 mmol, 15 equiv.), isatins/isatinketoimines **1** or **4** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.) and base K_2CO_3 (0.04 mmol, 20 mol%). Solvent EtOH (1.5 mL) was added and then the reaction mixture was placed in an was irradiated in a focused MW reactor (Discover by CEM Corporation, Matthews, NC) at 100 °C for 15 mins. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated and purified by column chromatography and gave the expected product **3** or **5**.

3. Gram-scale reaction between Isatin and Formaldehyde



A standard microwave reaction vessel was charged with paraformaldehyde **2** (2.79 g, 93.1 mmol, 15 equiv.), isatin **1** (1.0 g, 6.2 mmol, 1 equiv.) and base K_2CO_3 (172 mg, 1.24 mmol, 20 mol%). Solvent EtOH (20 mL) was added and then the reaction mixture was placed in an was irradiated in a focused microwave reactor at 100 °C for 1 hour. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated and purified by column chromatography and gave the expected product 66% yield (792 mg).

4. Control experiment



3-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-one was synthesized according to literatures.⁴ A standard microwave reaction vessel was charged with paraformaldehyde **2** (2.0 mmol, 10 equiv.), 3-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-one **6** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.) and base K₂CO₃ (20 mol%). Solvent EtOH (1.5 mL) was added and then the reaction mixture was placed in an was irradiated in a focused MW reactor at 100 °C for 15 mins. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated and purified by column chromatography and gave the expected product **3** 90% yield.

Reference

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1-Methyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-oxindole 3a: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. Colorless solid, 92% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 3.13 (s, 3 H), 3.78-3.87 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- d_6 , 100 MHz): δ 26.1, 67.1, 77.0, 108.8, 123.0, 125.1, 130.2, 130.9, 145.5, 177.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂NO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 194.0817 Found: 194.0819.



1-Ethyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-oxindole 3b: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 83% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 1.18 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3H), 3.13 (q, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 3.77-3.88 (m, 2H), 3.93 (br s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- d_6 , 100 MHz): δ 12.9, 34.4, 67.1, 77.0, 109.0, 122.8, 125.3, 130.1, 131.2, 144.4, 177.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄NO₃ (M+H) +: 208.0974 Found: 208.0974.



1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-oxindole 3c: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 94% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.90-3.96 (m, 2H), 4.01 (br s, 1H), 4.82 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (br s, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.43 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 42.8, 66.3, 76.3, 108.9, 122.2, 124.3, 127.1,

127.2, 128.5, 129.1, 130.2, 136.5, 143.6, 177.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{16}H_{16}NO_3$ (M+H) ⁺: 270.1133 Found: 270.1130.



1-Allyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-oxindole 3d: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 84% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.86-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.91-3.94 (m, 1H), 4.16 (br s, 1H), 4.22-4.28 (m, 1H), 4.34-4.40 (m, 1H), 5.14 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.21-5.27 (m, 2H), 5.80-5.87 (m, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.56 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 42.4, 66.9, 77.2, 111.5, 115.1, 117.2, 128.3, 132.3, 132.7, 133.5, 143.9, 176.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄NO₃ (M+H) +: 220.0974 Found: 220.0973.



3-Hydroxy-3-hydroxymethyl-oxindole 3e: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. Colorless solid, 74% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.82-3.88 (m, 2H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.99-7.01 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 9.31 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 67.1, 77.3, 110.4, 122.6, 125.6, 130.0, 131.5, 143.5, 179.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₉H₁₀NO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 180.0661 Found: 180.0661.



1-Methyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-chloro-oxindole 3f: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 77% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.83 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.92 (m, 1H), 4.09 (br s, 1H), 5.11 (br s, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.42

(1H, m) ; ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 26.3, 66.9, 77.3, 110.2, 125.5, 129.9, 133.1, 144.3, 177.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁ClNO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 228.0427 Found: 228.0424.



3g

1-Methyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-bromo-oxindole 3g: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 76% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.70 (q, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.45 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 26.5, 66.7, 77.8, 111.4, 116.6, 128.6, 133.5, 133.6, 144.7, 178.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁BrNO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 271.9922 Found: 271.9922.



3h

1-Methyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methyl-oxindole 3h: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 81% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.85 (m, 2H), 3.89 (br s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.37 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 21.1, 26.1, 67.1, 77.1, 108.6, 125.9, 130.3, 130.9, 132.2, 143.1, 177.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄NO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 208.0974 Found: 208.0971.



1-Methyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methoxy-oxindole 3i: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 88% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.89 (m, 5H), 3.97 (br s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 6.83-6.89 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.07 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 26.2, 56.03,

67.1, 77.4, 109.2, 112.6, 114.3, 132.2, 138.7, 156.9, 177.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{14}NO_4$ (M+H) ⁺: 224.0923 Found: 224.0925.



1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-chloro-oxindole 3j: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 84% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.90-4.00 (m, 2H), 4.24 (br s, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.44 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 43.8, 67.0, 77.4, 111.1, 125.6, 128.1, 128.3, 129.5, 129.8, 133.3, 137.0, 143.4, 177.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅CINO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 304.0740 Found: 304.0739.





1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-bromo-oxindole 3k: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 81% yield; ¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 3.90-4.00 (m, 2H), 4.24 (br s, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.57 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 43.8, 67.1, 77.4, 111.7, 115.4, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 129.5, 132.8, 133.7, 136.9, 143.9, 177.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅BrNO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 348.0235 Found: 348.0232.



1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methyl-oxindole 31: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 87% yield; ¹H NMR

(Acetone-*d*6, 400 MHz) δ 2.26 (s, 3H), 3.91-3.93 (m, 2H), 4.07 (m, 1H), 4.79 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.75-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.37 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*6, 100 MHz): δ 20.2, 42.8, 66.3, 76.4, 108.7, 125.1, 127.1, 127.2, 128.5, 129.3, 130.2, 131.5, 136.6, 141.2, 177.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈NO₃ (M+H) ⁺: 284.1287 Found: 284.1284.



1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methoxy-oxindole 3m: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 91% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 4.69-4.75 (m, 3H), 4.84 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.55-6.65 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.98 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 43.0, 54.8, 65.6, 76.8, 109.7, 111.3, 113.5, 126.9, 127.1, 128.3, 131.1, 135.8, 136.3, 156.5, 177.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈NO₄ (M+H) ⁺: 300.1236 Found: 300.1238.



tert-Butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylcarbamate 5a: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 84% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 1.00-1.45 (br s, 9H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 25.6, 27.3, 63.8, 65.6, 80.1, 108.4, 122.8, 122.9, 128.9, 144.3, 155.4, 177.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₁N₂O₄ (M+H) ⁺: 293.1501 Found: 293.1499.



tert-Butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-1-benzyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylcarbamate 5b: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 81% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 1.00-1.47 (br s, 9H), 3.79 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 5.15 (br s, 1H), 6.76 (br s, 1H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.46 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 28.5, 44.9, 65.0, 66.9, 80.9, 90.8, 110.5, 123.9, 124.0, 128.4, 138.5, 129.6, 129.7, 129.8, 137.4, 144.5, 156.3, 178.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₁H₂₅N₂O₄ (M+H) ⁺: 369.1814 Found: 369.1818.



tert-Butyl 5-methyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylcarbamate 5c: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 85% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 1.00-1.47 (br s, 9H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.18 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 19.4, 25.0, 26.9, 63.6, 65.5, 79.7, 107.7, 123.2, 128.8, 129.7, 132.4, 141.6, 154.9, 176.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₂N₂O₄ (M+H)⁺: 307.1658 Found: 307.1660.



tert-Butyl 5-methyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methoxy-2-oxoindolin-3-ylcarbamate 5d: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 90% yield;

¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 1.00-1.47 (br s, 9H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 6.92-6.97 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 25.4, 27.1, 54.9, 63.9, 65.3, 79.8, 108.5, 110.1, 112.8, 137.2, 154.8, 156.5, 176.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C16H23N2O5 (M+H) +: 323.1607 Found: 323.1604.



tert-Butyl 5-chloro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylcarbamate 5e: The title compound was prepared according to general procedure. White solid, 78% yield; ¹H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 1.00-1.47 (br s, 9H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): δ 26.8, 28.5, 64.9, 66.5, 81.5, 110.7, 124.4, 129.2, 129.8, 144.6, 156.4, 177.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₀ClN₂O₄ (M+H) +: 327.1112 Found: 327.1107.

5. ¹H & ¹³C NMR spectra for compound







3c









3f























3k

