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Electronic Supplementary Information

A phosphine-based redox method for direct conjugation of disulfides

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General Information

All solvents for the synthesis were purified by passing commercially available pre-dried, oxygenfree formulations through activated alumina columns. Reactions were monitored by TLC or LC-MS and the products were purified by flash column chromatography unless otherwise mentioned. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AN400 or AN600 instrument. The chemical shifts for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in ppm (δ) relative to the ¹H and ¹³C signals in the solvent (CDCl₃: δ 7.26, 77.16 ppm; DMSO-*d*6: δ 2.50, 39.51 ppm; CD₃CN: δ 1.94, and 1.32, 118.26 ppm; benzenz-*d*6: δ 7.16, 128.06 ppm) and the multiplicities are presented as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet. LC-MS was performed on an Agilent 1260 HPLC machine coupled to a 6120 single quadrupole MS detector using an Agilent Eclipse XDB-C18 5 μ m 4.6×150 mm column.

General Procedures and Characterization Data

PhS—SPh 6		$\frac{\text{PR}_3}{\text{benzene-}d_6}$ 23 °C, 1 h	SPh SPh 8
PMe ₃	94%	PCy ₃	no reaction
PEt ₃	78%	PEt₂Ph	12% (ether)
P ⁿ Bu ₃	46%	PEtPh ₂	no reaction
P ^t Bu ₃	no reaction	PPh ₃	no reaction
PMe ^t Bu ₂	no reaction	P(OMe) ₃	no reaction

General procedure for Fig. 2

Benzene- d_6 was degassed with argon for 5 times and then bubbled with argon for 30 min. To a vial charged with internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (5.60 mg, 0.033 mmol, 0.33 equiv) under an argon atmosphere was added a solution of **6** (1.0 M in benzene- d_6 , 0.15 mL, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and a solution of **7** (1.0 M in benzene- d_6 , 0.1 mL, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv). After diluting with additional benzene- d_6 (0.75 mL) to reach a final concentration of 0.1 M for **7**, phosphine (1.5 eq) was added, and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 1 h before transferring to an argon-filled NMR tube. The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded with 10 s recycle delay and the yield of **8** was determined by with integration relative to 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene. The progress of the reaction at 0.02 M or 0.2 M with 1.5 or 3.0 equiv trimethylphosphine was monitored by ¹H NMR in an NMR tube.



General procedure for Fig. 3

Toluene was degassed with argon for 5 times and then bubbled with argon for 30 min. To a vial charged with aldehyde (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and disulfide (1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in toluene (2.0 mL) was added trimethylphosphine (0.13 mL, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After stirring at 23 °C for 4

h, the crude reaction mixture was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the dithioacetal. For the reaction between aliphatic aldehyde and dialkyl disulfide, 3.0 equiv disulfide and 3.0 equiv trimethylphosphine were used.

Yield: 98%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.29 (m, 6H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 6H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₄H₁₃OS (M–SPh)⁺ 229.1, found 229.1



Yield: 92%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.21 (m, 8H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₄H₁₃S (M–SC₆H₆)⁺ 213.1, found 213.1.



Yield: 80%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 (dd, J = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 6H), 7.22–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.04 (s, 1H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₁₀ClS (M–SC₆H₆)⁺ 233.0, found 233.1.



Yield: 90%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 6H), 5.39 (s, 1H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₁₅NS₂Na (M+Na)⁺ 356.1, found 356.0.

Yield: 93%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36–7.28 (m, 6H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 6H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 1H); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –113.73; MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₁₀FS (M–SPh)⁺ 217.1, found 217.1.



Yield: 91%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 6H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₉H₁₁OS (M–SMe)⁺ 167.1, found 167.1.

Yield: 90%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 6H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₉H₁₁S (M–SMe)⁺ 151.1, found 151.1.



Yield: 85%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.64 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 2.13 (s, 6H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₈H₈ClS (M–SMe)⁺ 171.0, found 171.0.



Yield: 76%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 6H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₀H₁₂NS₂ (M+H)⁺ 210.0, found 210.1.



Yield: 86%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.07–6.99 (m, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 2.10 (s, 6H); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –114.17; MS (ESI) calculated for C₈H₈FS (M–SMe)⁺ 155.0, found 155.1.



Yield: 84%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.47–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.22 (m, 6H), 4.39 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.89–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.59 (dtd, *J* = 10.0, 7.6, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32–1.19 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₈H₂₃S₂ (M+H)⁺ 303.1, found 303.3.



Yield: 94%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.20 (m, 8H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.06 (m, 2H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 7.5, 6.6 Hz, 2H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₂₁S₂ (M+H)⁺ 337.1, found 337.3.

Yield: 80%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.19 (m, 8H), 7.17 (s, 5H), 4.55 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (qd, J = 7.0, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₂₁S₂ (M+H)⁺ 337.1, found 337.3.



Yield: 44%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.63 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 6H), 1.79–1.70 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.29 (dtd, *J* = 10.7, 6.9, 6.0, 4.0 Hz, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₇H₁₅S (M–SMe)⁺ 131.1, found 131.2.

Yield: 52%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 3H), 3.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.6 Hz, 3H), 2.14–2.03 (m, 8H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₀H₁₃S (M–SMe)⁺ 165.1, found 165.2.



Yield: 61%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.23 (m, 5H), 3.80 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.17–3.07 (m, 1H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 6H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₁H₁₆S₂Na (M+Na)⁺ 235.1, found 235.2.

Synthesis of the 11b



To a solution of **9** (1.54 g, 6.73 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in degassed diethyl ether (15 mL) was added *n*butyllithium (1.6 M, 5.0 mL, 8.08 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at 0 °C. After stirring at the same temperature for 2 h, chlorodiethylphosphine (0.9 mL, 7.40 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 1 h before filtered under argon and washed with degassed diethyl ether (3 mL ×2) to afford **10b** as a diethyl ether solution. Tetrafluoroboric acid (48 wt. % in water, 1.34 mL, 10.1 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was then added and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 12 h before concentrated. The resulting residue was dissolved in water (5 mL), washed with methylene chloride (5 mL ×2) and lyophilized to give **11b** (1.71 g, 90% yield) as a colorless oil (96% pure by HPLC). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN, as a mixture of aldehyde and hydrate): δ 10.33 (s, 1H), 7.79–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 146.4 Hz, 1H, P•H), 2.15–1.99 (m, 4H), 1.04 (dt, *J* = 18.3, 7.7 Hz, 6H); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O, as a mixture of aldehyde and hydrate): δ 8.14–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.77–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.63–7.49 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 314.6 Hz, 1H, P•H), 2.87–2.55 (m, 4H), 1.61–1.31 (m, 3H), 1.11–1.00 (m, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₁H₁₆OP⁺ (M+H)⁺ 195.1, found 195.2.



10b•HBF4: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O): δ 8.00–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.84–7.72 (m, 2H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 4.30–4.12 (m, 4H), 2.65–2.52 (m, 4H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₂₀O₂P (M+H)⁺ 239.1, found 239.1.

11a: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, as a mixture of aldehyde and hydrate): δ 8.07–7.99 (m, 0.5H), 7.90–7.84 (m, 0.5H), 7.79–7.60 (m, 1.5H), 7.59–7.48 (m, 1.5H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 176.7 Hz, 1H, P•H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1.5H), 2.34 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 12.1 Hz, 3H), 2.17 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1.5H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₉H₁₂OP (M+H)⁺ 167.1, found 167.1.

11c: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, as a mixture of aldehyde and hydrate): δ 10.00 (s, 1H), 8.35–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.12–8.05 (m, 1H), 8.04–7.94 (m, 2H), 3.14 (dp, *J* = 12.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (dd, *J* = 20.0, 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (dd, *J* = 19.3, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₂₀OP (M+H)⁺ 223.1, found 223.2.

Characterization of the oxidation product of 11b



¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ 10.79 (s, 1H), 8.03–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.90 (ddd, *J* = 11.4, 6.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (tdd, *J* = 9.0, 6.4, 3.8 Hz, 2H), 2.08 (dq, *J* = 11.5, 7.7 Hz, 4H), 0.96 (dt, *J* = 17.3, 7.6 Hz, 6H); ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ 47.63; MS (ESI) calculated for (M+H)⁺ 211.1, found 211.2.

RDDC of lipoic acid in aqueous buffers



Screening for buffer conditions:

To the aqueous buffer solution (25 mM, 82.5 μ L) was added lipoic acid (1 μ L, 3 mg/mL, 3 μ g, 14.5 nmol, 1.0 equiv) in methanol followed by a solution of internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (2 μ L, 5 mM, 0.01 μ mol) in methanol and a solution of **11b** (10 mM, 14.5 μ L, 10 equiv) in water. After stirring at 23 °C for 18–22 h, an aliquot of the reaction mixture was analyzed by LC-MS. Using a 1:1 mixture of purified **12** and **11b**, the relative absorption at 210 nm was determined to be 0.8529:1, which was used to estimate the yield of **12**.

Procedure for Fig. 5

To a solution of lipoic acid (20.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in aqueous buffer (25 mM, 5 mL) was added a solution of **11b** (282.0 mg, 10 equiv) in water (0.5 mL). After stirring at 23 °C for 20 h, the mixture was extract with ethyl acetate (5 mL \times 3), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated, and purified by flash column chromatography to give **12** (32.1 mg, 80% yield). ¹H

NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 7.86 (ddd, J = 7.9, 3.7, 1.2 Hz, 0.4H), 7.79 (ddd, J = 7.8, 3.7, 1.2 Hz, 0.6H), 7.62–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.44 (qdd, J = 7.5, 2.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 0.4H), 6.29 (s, 0.6H), 3.30 (ddd, J = 15.0, 13.0, 2.5 Hz, 0.4H), 3.08 (ddt, J = 14.2, 8.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.99–2.89 (m, 1H), 2.65 (ddd, J = 14.4, 4.6, 3.1 Hz, 0.6H), 2.42–2.22 (m, 2H), 2.22–2.04 (m, 6H), 1.79–1.36 (m, 6H), 1.19–0.96 (m, 6H). MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₉H₃₀O₃PS₂ (M+H)⁺ 401.1, found 401.1.

Disulfide stapling of 13 with 11b

To a solution of salmon calcitonin (13) (1.0 mg, 0.292 μ mol, 1.0 equiv) in pH 8.2 HEPES buffer (145 μ L) was added a solution of 11b in water (1.0 M, 0.9 μ L, 3.0 equiv). After stirring at 23 °C for 18 h, excess 11b was removed by a centrifugal filter (3 kDa MWCO), washed with water (300 μ L ×3), incubated with (aminomethyl)polystyrene (15.0 mg, 50 equiv) for 12 h, and filtered to give a mixture of 13, 14, and 14'. 13: MS (ESI-QTOF) calculated for C₁₄₅H₂₄₁N₄₄O₄₈PS₂ (M+H)⁺ 3431.72, found 3631.62. 14: MS (ESI-QTOF) calculated for C₁₅₆H₂₅₆N₄₄O₄₉PS₂ (M+H)⁺ 3625.81, found 3625.69 or 3625.76. 14': MS (ESI-QTOF) calculated for C₁₇₈H₂₈₂N₄₄O₄₉P₃S₂ (M+H)⁺ 3977.96, found 3978.12 or 3978.19.





S9

Mass spectrum at 8.43 min before deconvolution



Mass spectrum at 8.43 min after deconvolution: m/z 3625.69 (14)



Mass spectrum at 9.04 min before deconvolution







Mass spectrum at 7.49 min after deconvolution: m/z 3431.62 (13)









12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 f1 (ppm)



¹H NMR CDCl₃, 400 MHz



12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 f1 (ppm)



12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 f1 (ppm)



CDCI₃, 400 MHz









^{12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0} f1 (ppm)





12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 f1 (ppm)











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