Functionalized Imidazolium Salt: An Efficient Catalyst for Buchwald-Hartwig type C–N Cross-Coupling of (Hetero)aryl Chlorides/Bromides with Amines Under Solvent-, Inert gas-, and Base-free Ambience

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1. General experimental conditions:

Each component of laboratory glassware's were oven dried and then used for carrying out the general experimental procedures. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C - NMR spectra were measured on FT-NMR Bruker 400 MHz machine. Whereas some spectra were also analyzed on a JEOL ECS-400 spectrometer which was functioning at 400 MHz for ¹H proton NMR and 100 MHz for 13C ^{1}H NMR and utilization of CDCl₃ and DMSO-d₆ was done as solvent for preparing the samples. Both Tetramethylsilane (TMS) (0.00 ppm) and CDCl₃ were applied as the internal standards while recording the ¹H proton NMR (δ 7.246 ppm) and ¹³C (δ 77.0 ppm)]proton NMR. Pattern of the chemical shifts in proton NMR were described in parts per million(ppm). While peak splitting patterns were defined as singlet (s), broad singlet (brs), doublet (d), double doublet (dd), triplet (t), and multiplet (m). All Coupling constant (J) values were stated in Hertz (Hz). High-Resolution Electron Impact Mass Spectra (HR-EIMS) were analyzed on Xevo G2-SQ-Tof (Waters, USA) which are compatible with ACQUITY UPLC® and nano ACQUITY UPLC® systems. Column chromatography was done using a normal (particle size: 100-200 Mesh) and flash (particle size: 230-400 Mesh) silica gel, which were obtained from QualigensTM (India), Spectrochem (India), and Rankem (India). TLC plates coated with silica gel (Kiesel 60-F254, Merck (India)) were used to track the progress of chemical reactions. The visualizing agents which were utilized for TLC were UV light. For drying and concentrating all the solvents, BUCHI's Rotavapor R-210 was used. All the supplied solvents were of analytical grade such as MeOH, EtOH and they were used without any prior purification. The chemicals and reagents used for the chemical reactions were purchased from Sigma Aldrich chemicals company (USA), TCI (India) Pvt. Ltd., Merck (India), and/or Spectrochem (India) etc. were used without any purification prior to use.

2. Synthesis of Imidazolium salts (HL₁-Br and HL₁PF₆): The novel imidazolium salt (HL₁-Br) was formed using the methodology depicted in Scheme 2. Previously reported methods were used to prepare 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyridine and 2-bromo-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one.⁹ HL₁-Br was synthesized using the known reaction of 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyridine (280 mg, 1.05 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (420mg, 1.0 mmol) in ACN under N₂ atmosphere at 85 °C for 16 h.¹⁰ The result was a colourless solid precipitate. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered using filter paper.With 2 0 mL of dry acetonitrile, the leftover solid was washed. To get the ligand in an analytically pu re form, the colourless product was dried and then stored in a calcium chloride vacuum desiccator. The bromide anions of the ligand were exchanged to hexafluorophosphate in

water using potassium hexafluorophosphate (1.16 g, 6.3 mmol) in excess. The solid residue that was formed was filtered and rinsed with excess water. To acquire the li gand in an analytically pure form, the colourless compound was first air dried and then stored in a calcium chloride vacuum desiccator for 12 hours. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS-mass data were recorded to characterise the ligand.



Scheme1. Synthesis of 3-(2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazo-3ium bromide (HL₁-Br)



Scheme2. Exchange of bromide ion to hexafluorophosphate for synthesis of (HL₁-PF₆)
3-(2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium bromide (HL₁-Br):

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta = 10.17$ (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.39. (m, 2H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.64 (t, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, J =7.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.11-6.06 (m, 2H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz): δ = 190.08, 160.23, 149.09, 145.94, 140.48, 136.29, 131.11, 125.13, 124.80, 123.05, 121.00, 118.26, 114.60, 112.18, 100.00, 63.81, 59.95; HRMS (ESI/QTOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₆BrN₃O₂ 374.0499; found 374.0495.

(HL₁- PF₆): ¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta = 9.21$ (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (ddd, J = 4.8, 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.07 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.88-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 5.72 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, Acetonitrile- d_3) $\delta = 190.15$, 160.40, 149.57, 140.55, 136.46, 135.24, 130.81, 125.57, 125.20, 123.24, 121.16, 118.97, 114.24, 112.81, 59.78, 55.92. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, Acetonitrile- d_3) δ = -130.93, -135.29, -139.66, -144.02, -148.39, -152.76, -157.13; HRMS (ESI/QTOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₆F₆N₃O₂P 440.0957; found 440.0958.



¹H NMR of (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) spectra of imidazolium salt (HL₁-Br)



¹³C{¹H} NMR of (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) spectra of imidazolium salt (HL₁-Br)







 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) spectra of imidazolium salt (HL₁-PF₆)

-130.930 -135.294 -139.658 -144.023 -148.388 -157.127



Mass Spectra of imidazolium salt (HL_1-PF_6)

3. General procedure for the synthesis of C-N coupling of variety of Amines (1a-g, 4a-f, 6a-f) with different type of Aryl/Hetero-aryl halides (2a-g/2a'-2b') : A mixture of different type of amines (1a-g, 4a-f, 6a-f) (0.5 mmol) with various aryl/hetero-aryl halides (2a-g/2a'-2b') (0.6 mmol) in the presence of HL-Br (1 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂ (40 mol%) was charged in a reaction tube at a temperature of 110° C for 16 h. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled and the work-up was done with H₂O (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude residue which was further purified through column chromatography on silica gel (230-400 mesh) using hexane: ethyl acetate (99:1 ratio) as eluting solvent to afford the C-N coupling product **3a-o**, **5a-f** and **7a-f** in 35-93 % yield.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of C-N coupling product using different type of amines (1a-g, 4a-f, 6a-f) with various aryl/hetero-aryl halides (2a-g/2a'-2b')

4. Characterization data of C-N coupling product 3a-o, 5a-f and 7a-f:

Diphenylamine (3a)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.20-7.17 (m, 4H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.86-6.83 (m, 2H), 5.61 (br, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

4-methyl-N-phenylaniline (3b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.25 - 7.21$ (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01 - 6.98 (m, 4H), 6.89 - 6.85 (m, 1H), 5.60 (br, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

4-methoxy-N-phenylaniline (3c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.80 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79-6.73 (m, 3H), 5.40 (br, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1b].

4-chloro-N-phenylaniline (3d)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.90 - 6.84 (m, 3H), 5.55 (br, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.79 (s), 142.01 (s), 129.42 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz), 125.62 (s), 121.66 (s), 118.95 (s), 118.25 (s).

4-nitro-N-phenylaniline (3e)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.48 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 7.27 (br, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 5H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.35 (s), 139.66 (s), 129.90 (s), 126.38 (s), 124.84 (s), 122.10 (s), 113.85 (s).

2-(phenylamino)benzonitrile (3f)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.32 - 7.22$ (m, 5H), 6.68 - 6.63 (m, 4H), 4.33 (br, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

N-phenylnaphthalen-1-amine (3g)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.82-6.79 (m, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 144.85 (s), 138.84 (s), 134.86 (s), 129.48 (s), 128.67 (s), 127.91 (s),126.25 (s), 126.14 (s), 125.83 (s), 123.21 (s), 121.96 (s), 120.73 (s), 117.60 (s), 116.15 (s).

N-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (3h)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.39$ (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.96 (m, 3H), 5.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

1-(3-(phenylamino)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3i)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.55 (t,J= 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 - 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 5.78 (br, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C was found in good agreement with the ref [1b].

2,4,6-trimethyl-N-phenylaniline (3j)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.16-7.12$ (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 6.74-6.70 (m, 1H), 6.49-6.47 (m, 2H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 6H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

4-methyl-N-phenylaniline (3k)

Since the structure of compound 3k is same as 3b, so ¹H NMR of 3k is matched with 3b and it found in good agreement with ref [1a]

4-methoxy-N-phenylaniline (31)

Since the structure of compound 3l is same as 3c, so ¹H NMR of 3l is matched with 3c and it found in good agreement with ref [1b]

N-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (3m)

Since the structure of compound **3m** is same as **3h**, so ¹H NMR of **3m** is matched with **3h** and it found in good agreement with ref [1a]

N-phenylnaphthalen-1-amine (3n)

Since the structure of compound **3n** is same as **3g**, so ¹H NMR of **3n** is matched with **3g** and it found in good agreement with ref [1b]

N-phenylisoquinolin-4-amine (30)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.38 (br, 1H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the reference [1h]

N-benzylaniline (5a)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.31 - 7.14$ (m, 6H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.64 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 3.98 (br, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1c].

N-benzyl-4-methylaniline (5b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.17$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.64-6.60 (m, 1H), 6.53 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.87 (br, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1c].

N-(4-bromobenzyl)aniline (5c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.71-6.67 (m, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 4.02 (br, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1d].

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)aniline (5d)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, J=8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.72-6.68 (m, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.93 (br, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1c].

N-phenethylaniline (5e)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.25 - 7.20$ (m, 2H), 7.16-7.05 (m, 5H), 6.64-6.59 (m, 1H), 6.53-6.50 (m, 2H), 3.53 (br, 1H), 3.30 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.84-2.79 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1e].

N-(2-(1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)aniline (5f)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.87 (br, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.64-6.60 (m, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.02-2.97 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.38 (s),

136.53 (s), 129.42 (s), 127.58 (s), 122.33 (s), 122.19 (s), 119.60 (s), 118.96 (s), 117.50 (s), 113.54 (s), 113.19 (s), 111.38 (s), 44.11 (s), 25.26 (s).

1-phenylpyrrolidine (7a)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.26-7.21$ (m, 2H), 6.66 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 3.29 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 2.03 – 1.98 (m, 4H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1f].

N-cyclohexylaniline (7b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.18 - 7.14$ (m, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.07 - 3.05 (m, 4H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.46 (m, 5.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 152.37$ (s), 129.09 (s), 119.27 (s), 116.63 (s), 50.78 (s), 25.98 (s), 24.44 (s).

1,4-diphenylpiperazine (7c)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.39-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.98-6.96 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 8H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 151.36 (s), 129.27 (s), 120.11 (s), 116.42 (s), 49.48 (s).

4-phenylmorpholine (7d)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.85 – 6.79 (m, 3H), 3.79 – 3.77 (m, 4H), 3.09 – 3.07 (m, 4H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.45 (s), 129.32 (s), 120.19 (s), 115.87 (s), 67.08 (s), 49.54 (s)

N-cyclohexylaniline (7e)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.18 - 7.06$ (m, 2H), 6.60 - 6.51 (m, 3H), 3.18 (br, 1H), 1.98 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.70-1.55 (m, 3H), 1.31 - 1.05 (m, 6H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1a].

4-(propylamino)benzonitrile (7f)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (br, 1H), 3.29-3.24 (m, 2H), 1.50 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (m, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} was found in good agreement with the ref [1g].

General procedure for the competition reaction

A mixture of 4-methoxyaniline 1c (0.5 mmol), 4-nitroaniline 1f (0.5 mmol), bromobenzene 2a (0.5 mmol) in the presence of HL₁-Br⁻ (1 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂ (40 mol%) were charged at a temperature of 110 °C for 16 h in a sealed reaction tube. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled and the work-up was done with ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude residue which was further purified through column chromatography on silica gel (230-400 mesh) using hexane: ethyl acetate (99:1 ratio) as an eluting solvent afforded the corresponding product 3c in 55 % and 3f in 30 % yields, respectively. A mixture of aniline 1a (0.5 mmol), 2-phenylethan-1-amine 4e (0.5 mmol), bromobenzene **2a** (0.5 mmol) in the presence of HL₁-Br⁻ (1 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂ (40 mol%) were charged at a temperature of 110 °C for 16 h in a sealed reaction tube. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled and the work-up was done ethyl acetate (3 \times 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude residue which was further purified through column chromatography on silica gel (230-400 mesh) using hexane: ethyl acetate (99:1 ratio) as an eluting solvent which afforded the corresponding product 3a in 65 % and 5e in 20 % yields, respectively. The above reaction is repeated by taking a mixture of aniline 1a (0.5 mmol), phenylmethanamine 4a (0.5 mmol), bromobenzene 2a (0.5 mmol) underneath the standard reaction conditions. After usual work-up, the crude residue was purified through silica gel column chromatography (230-400 mesh) using hexane: ethyl acetate (99:1 ratio) as an eluting solvent which afforded the corresponding product 3a in 58 % and 5a in 17 % yields, respectively. Furthermore, a mixture of 2-phenylethan-1-amine 4e (0.5 mmol), pyrrolidine 6a, bromobenzene 2a (0.5 mmol) was charged at standard conditions. After customary work-up, the crude residue was purified through silica gel column chromatography (230-400 mesh) using hexane: ethyl acetate (99:1 ratio) as an eluting solvent which afforded the corresponding product 5e in 50 % and 7a in 38 % yields, respectively.

References

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¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **3b**





















¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) Spectra of **3**g



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) Spectra of **3g**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **3h**















¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **5a**







¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **5**c



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **5d**



¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **5**e



¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d) Spectra of **5**f



¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **5f**



¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d) Spectra of 7a



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **7b**



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **7b**



¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **7c**



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) Spectra of **7c**







¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) Spectra of **7f**



Mass Spectra of intermediate 3