# Metal-free thioesterification of $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes with thiols

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1. Analytical data of isolated products	S2
2. Deuterium-labeling experiment	S10
3. NMR spectra of isolated products	S12
4. References	S40

## 1. Analytical data of isolated products

# 3a-a: S-Benzyl 3-phenylpropanethioate<sup>1</sup>



Yellow liquid, isolated yield: 93%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.87 – 2.91 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98 – 3.03 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.14 (m, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.15 – 7.26 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.34 (m, 6H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.38 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.15 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 45.20 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.32, 127.21, 128.28, 128.50, 128.58, 128.77, 137.52, 139.91, 197.82 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 51.10 (8), 64.80 (10), 76.80 (8), 91.00 (42), 91.90 (10), 104.00 (30), 105.00 (100), 105.90 (8), 132.80 (22), 255.70 (17, M<sup>+</sup>).

# 3a-b: S-(4-methoxyphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate<sup>1</sup>



White solid, isolated yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.92 – 2.97 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.99 – 3.05 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.92 – 6.96 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.20 – 7.25 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.28 – 7.33 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.39 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.85 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.34 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 114.86, 118.37, 126.36, 128.37, 128.53, 136.07, 140.00, 160.64, 197.69 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.00 (8), 103.00 (8), 105.00 (33), 105.90 (8), 139.20 (10), 140.10 (100), 14.00 (8), 271.80 (6), 727.70 (3, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3a-c: S-(4-methylphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate<sup>3</sup>



Colourless oil, isolated yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.39 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 – 2.99 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.01 – 3.06 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.20 – 7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.34 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 21.30 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.36 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.99 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 124.07, 126.33, 128.35, 128.50, 129.99, 134.40, 139.64, 139.94, 197.13 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 103.00 (8), 105.20 (100), 105.90 (13), 124.00 (21), 131.20 (8), 132.90 (40), 237.30 (8), 255.50 (10), 256.80 (12, M<sup>+</sup>).

# 3a-d: S-(4-fluorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate



White solid, isolated yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.95 – 3.01 (m, 4H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.07 – 7.15 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.17 – 7.26 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.29 – 7.38 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.32 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.00 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 116.42 (d, *J* = 22.2 Hz), 122.92 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 126.43, 128.45 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz), 136.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 139.78, 163.44 (d, *J* = 250.1 Hz), 196.56 (*C*O); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): -111.63; MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.00 (9), 105.00 (100), 105.90 (8), 126.80 (8), 132.80 (44), 260.70 (2, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3a-e. S-(4-chlorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate<sup>2</sup>



Yellow solid, isolated yield: 95%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.95 - 3.05 (m, 4H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.20 - 7.26 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.29 - 7.34 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.36 - 7.41 (m, 2H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.29 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.11 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.05, 126.43, 128.32, 128.55, 129.39, 135.03, 135.77, 139.70, 196.03 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 102.40 (8), 103.30 (13), 105.20 (100), 106.10 (19), 108.00 (15), 132.90 (93), 237.00 (21), 276.70 (2, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3a-f: S-(4-bromophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate<sup>4</sup>



White solid, isolated yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.94 – 2.99 (m, 2H, *C*H<sub>2</sub>), 3.00 – 3.05 (m, 2H, *C*H<sub>2</sub>), 7.16 – 7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.28 – 7.33 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.50 – 7.56 (m, 2H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.32 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 45.17 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 124.06, 126.47, 126.67, 128.35, 128.58, 132.38, 135.89, 139.71, 195.95 (*C*O); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.00 (19), 105.10 (100), 108.00 (19), 132.80 (37), 321.40 (2, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3a-g: S-naphth 3-phenylpropanethioate



White solid, isolated yield: 89%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.99 – 3.08 (m, 4H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.21 – 7.26 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.30 – 7.34 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.41 – 7.44 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.49 – 7.56 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.81 – 7.89 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.90 – 7.94 (m, 1H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.39 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.19 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 124.94, 126.42, 126.54, 127.13, 127.77, 127.96, 128.39, 128.57, 128.78, 130.89, 133.31, 133.52, 134.33, 139.91, 196.90 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.20 (13), 103.00 (14), 105.20 (100), 106.10 (22), 115.00 (29), 131.20 (10), 133.10 (26), 159.20 (17), 160.10 (87), 161.00 (22), 291.80 (16, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3a-h: S-phenyl 3-phenylpropanethioate



Yellow solid, isolated yield: 97%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.95 – 3.05 (m, 4H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.18 – 7.25 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.28 – 7.34 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.35 – 7.46 (m, 5H, Ph);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.36 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.11 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.39, 127.61, 128.35, 128.54, 129.17, 129.38, 134.46, 139.89, 196.66 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.00 (9), 103.20 (12), 104.20 (100), 106.10 (16), 109.10 (14), 132.90 (70), 242.70 (24, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3b-a: S-Benzyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanethioate



Yellow oil, isolated yield: 91%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.82 – 2.89 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.93 – 3.00 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.92 – 6.98 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.09 – 7.14 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.21 – 7.26 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.26 – 7.34 (m, 3H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.58 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.17 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 45.22 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 115.27 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 127.25, 128.59, 128.76, 129.74 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 135.50 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 137.47, 161.48 (d, *J* = 244.1 Hz), 197.67 (CO); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): -117.31; MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (11), 91.00 (23), 102.80 (13), 108.90 (51), 109.80 (10), 122.10 (56), 122.90 (100), 123.80 (11), 274.80 (16, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3c-a: S-Benzyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanethioate



Yellow liquid, isolated yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.81 – 2.90 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.93 – 2.98 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.07 – 7.11 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.21 – 7.25 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.27 – 7. 32 (m, 2H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.71 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.20 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 44.92

(SCH<sub>2</sub>), 127.27, 128.60, 128.62, 128.76, 129.70, 132.13, 137.44, 138.32, 197.52 (*C*O); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (10), 89.00 (12), 91.00 (25), 101.90 (14), 102.80 (31), 103.80 (10), 123.10 (14), 125.00 (37), 125.90 (10), 126.80 (13), 137.20 (12), 138.20 (46), 139.20 (100), 140.10 (34), 141.00 (38), 167.10 (21), 289.80 (45), 290.80 (19, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3d-a: S-Benzyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)propanethioate



White solid, isolated yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.83 – 2.88 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.92 – 2.98 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.00 – 7.07 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.21 – 7.28 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.28 – 7.34 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.35 – 7.43 (m, 2H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.73 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.17 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 44.80 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.13, 127.25, 128.58, 128.74, 130.08, 131.54, 137.40, 138.80, 197.47 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (22), 91.20 (44), 103.00 (20), 104.00 (24), 169.00 (37), 170.90 (38), 182.20 (49), 183.00 (72), 184.10 (66), 185.00 (74), 255.00 (100), 335.80 (8, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3e-a: S-Benzyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate



Yellow oil, isolated yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.83 – 2.88 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.92 – 2.97 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.13 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.80 – 6.84 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.07 – 7.11 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.21 – 7.26 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.33 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.57 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.12 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 45.50 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.21 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 113.88, 127.19, 128.56, 128.76, 129.24, 131.93, 137.55, 158.06, 197.91 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 119.30 (9), 120.20 (23), 121.20 (100), 122.20 (22), 133.20 (10), 134.20 (54), 135.00 (18), 163.20 (9), 284.80 (12), 285.70 (44), 286.70 (8, M<sup>+</sup>).

## 3f-a: S-Benzyl 3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate



Colourless liquid, isolated yield: 95%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.86 – 2.92 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98 – 3.03 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.14 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.84 – 6.90 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.11 – 7.15 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.19 – 7.25, 7.26 – 7.34 (m, 6H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 26.62 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.07 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.31 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 55.12 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 110.17, 120.38, 127.13, 127.65, 128.54,

128.77, 129.95, 137.69, 157.39, 198.27 (*C*O); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 91.00 (31), 91.90 (10), 119.30 (11), 121.00 (100), 122.00 (13), 134.00 (23), 135.00 (32), 161.80 (75), 286.70 (7, M<sup>+</sup>).

3g-a: S-Benzyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)propanethioate



Colourless liquid, isolated yield: 88%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.96 – 3.01 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.24 – 3.29 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (m, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.18 – 7.26 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.40 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.49 (td, 1H, J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, Ph), 7.96 (dd, 1H, J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 28.91 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.23 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.89 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 124.99, 127.27, 127.68, 128.59, 128.80, 132.31, 133.24, 135.13, 137.38, 197.32 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (10), 65.00 (10), 77.00 (12), 91.00 (22), 119.90 (34), 128.80 (10), 132.90 (11), 134.00 (24), 147.10 (100), 177.70 (42), 178.70 (13), 301.20 (2, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3h-a: S-Benzyl 3-(3-methoxy-4-acetoxyphenyl)propanethioate



Colourless oil, isolated yield: 93%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.31 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.86 – 2.91 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.94 – 3.00 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.14 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.73 – 6.79 (m, 2H, Ph), 6.93 (d, 1H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.0 MHz, Ph), 7.22 – 7.26 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.32 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 20.65 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.32 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.20 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 45.10 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.80 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 112.53, 120.36, 122.68, 127.26, 128.61, 128.77, 137.48, 138.14, 138.92, 150.91, 169.12, 197.70 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 137.10 (23), 150.20 (33), 151.20 (10), 221.20 (8), 302.00 (100), 302.80 (16), 344.00 (2, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3i-a: S-Benzyl 3-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)propanethioate



Orange liquid, isolated yield: 89%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm): 2.82 – 2.89 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 2.92 (s, 6H,  $N(CH_3)_2$ ), 2.94 – 2.99 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 4.14 (s, 2H,  $SCH_2$ ), 6.69 (d, 2H,  $J_{H-H}$  = 8.8 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-), 7.07 (d, 2H,  $J_{H-H}$  = 8.8 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-), 7.20 – 7.25 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.27 – 7.33 (m, 4H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm): 30.51 ( $CH_2$ ), 33.09 ( $SCH_2$ ), 40.75 ( $NCH_3$ ) 45.72 ( $CH_2$ ), 112.89,

127.14, 127.86, 128.54, 128.76, 128.87, 137.61, 149.25, 198.12 (*C*O); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 133.20 (10), 134.20 (20), 298.20 (11), 299.10 (100, M<sup>+</sup>).

3j-a: S-Benzyl 3-(2-furanyl)propanethioate



Colourless liquid, isolated yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.90 – 2.94 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.00 – 3.05 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.15 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.02 (dd, 1H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.2, 0.8 Hz, CH from furan), 6.27 (dd, 1H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.2, 1.9 Hz, CH from furan), 7.22 – 7.26, 7.27 – 7.34 (m, 6H, Ph and CH from furan); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 23.71 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.15 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.84 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 105.57, 110.16, 127.23, 128.57, 128.77, 137.44, 141.28, 153.45, 197.37 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 53.00 (23), 65.00 (23), 80.90 (95), 81.80 (20), 91.20 (96), 94.00 (100), 94.90 (57), 112.90 (15), 170.90 (21), 184.90 (19), 243.30 (22), 245.70 (51), 246.70 (45, M<sup>+</sup>).

# 3k-a: S-Benzyl hexanethioate<sup>5</sup>



Yellow liquid, isolated yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 0.87 – 0.92 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28 – 1.36 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63 – 1.72 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.54 – 2.59 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.13 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.22 – 7.25, 7.26 – 7.34 (m, 5H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 13.83 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.05 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.08 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 43.76 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.14, 128.55, 128.75, 137.71, 198.87 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (26), 65.00 (21), 70.90 (27), 91.00 (100), 91.90 (30), 97.20 (23), 98.20 (38), 99.10 (84), 123.80 (43), 130.80 (42), 221.90 (29), 222.70 (39, M<sup>+</sup>).

# 3I-a: S-Benzyl 4-hexenethioate



Colourless liquid, isolated yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 1.59 – 1.65 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.32 – 2.43 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.59 – 2.65 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (s, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.31 – 5.54 (m, 2H, =CH), 7.20 – 7.25, 7.27 – 7.32 (m, 5H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 17.84 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.44 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.11 (SCH<sub>2</sub>), 43.63 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 125.73, 126.60, 127.18, 128.55, 128.77, 137.69, 198.23 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (11), 55.00 (11), 65.00 (12), 67.20 (11), 69.00 (39), 91.00 (37), 128.80 (100), 220.80 (11, M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 3I-a": S-benzyl 5-(benzylthio)hexanethioate



Colourless liquid, isolated yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 1.25 (d, 3H,  $J_{HH} = 6.8$  Hz,  $CH_3$ ), 1.44 – 1.60 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.71 – 1.79 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 2.49 (t, 2H,  $J_{H-H} = 7.4$  Hz,  $CH_2$ C(O)S), 2.61 (h, 1H,  $J_{HH} = 6.7$  Hz, CH), 3.71 (s, 2H, SC $H_2$ ), 4.11 (s, 2H, SC $H_2$ ), 7.20 – 7.26 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.28 – 7.32 (m, 8H, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 21.06 ( $CH_3$ ), 22.81, 33.15, 34.88, 35.66, 38.82, 43.35 ( $CH_2$ ), 126.86, 127.21, 128.44, 128.59, 128.77, 137.64, 138.55, 198.44 (CO); MS m/z (rel. intensity): 45.00 (12), 65.00 (12), 91.10 (100), 92.20 (20), 101.00 (23), 129.00 (74), 221.00 (52), 253.20 (18, M<sup>+</sup>- PhCH<sub>2</sub>-).

#### 5a: S,S'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-phenylpropanethioate)



Pale yellow solid, isolated yield: 93%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.94 – 3.06 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.20 – 7.23 (m, 5H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.28 – 7.33 (m, 5H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.42 (s, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 31.33 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.62 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.45, 128.35, 128.58, 129.29, 129.58, 134.75, 139.73, 195.78 (CO).

#### 5b: *S*,*S*'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanethioate)



White solid, isolated yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.91 – 3.02 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.96 – 7.01 (m, 4H,  $-C_6H_4$ -F), 7.14 – 7.18 (m, 4H,  $-C_6H_4$ -F), 7.40 (s, 4H,  $-C_6H_4$ -); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.50 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.27 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 115.36 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 127.30, 129.24, 129.82 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 134.76, 134.92, 135.34 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 161.56 (d, *J* = 244.4 Hz), 195.62 (CO); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): -117.12.

## 5c: *S*,*S*'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanethioate)



White solid, isolated yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.93 – 3.01 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.11 – 7.15 (m, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-Cl), 7.25 – 7.26, 7.28 – 7.29 (m, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-Cl), 7.41 (s, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.60 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 44.97 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 128.68, 129.21, 129.75, 132.26, 134.76, 138.15, 195.50 (*C*O).

#### 5d: *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-bromophenyl)propanethioate)



White solid, isolated yield: 89%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.95 – 3.00 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.08 (d, 4H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-Br), 7.40 (s, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-), 7.42 (d, 4H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.66 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.89 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.31, 129.23, 130.14, 131.66, 134.76, 138.69, 195.44 (CO).

## 5e: *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate)



White solid, isolated yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.95 (s, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.84 (d, 4H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.4 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe), 7.12 (d, 4H, J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.3 Hz, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe), 7.41 (s, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 30.53 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.57 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.26 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 113.96, 129.33, 131.78, 134.74, 128.18, 195.86 (CO).

## 5f: *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate)



Pale yellow solid, isolated yield: 88%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 2.94 – 3.02 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.85 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.85 – 6.91 (m, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe), 7.13 – 7.16 (m, 2H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe), 7.20 – 7.24 (m, 2H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe), 7.41 (s, 4H, -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): 26.69 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.56 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.21 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 110.25, 120.46, 127.81, 128.06, 129.45, 130.12, 134.70, 157.46, 196.20 (CO).

## 2. Deuterium-labeling experiment



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) recorded after reaction between 1a and 2a'

## <sup>1</sup>H,<sup>13</sup>C HMBC spectra of 3a-a product – H NMR signals assignment

To differentiate signals coming from two  $CH_2$  groups (indicated in blue and green) we recorded a HMBC spectrum. The multiplet between 2.98 – 3.03 ppm correlates with aryl carbons (indicated with red) giving the signal {3.01, 128.30}. There is no correlation between 2.87 – 2.91 ppm multiplet and aryl carbons. Therefore, we can assign the signals at 2.98 – 3.03 ppm to the methylene group connected directly to the phenyl ring and the signals 2.87 – 2.91 ppm to the methylene group connected to the carbonyl group.



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H <sup>13</sup>C HMBC (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-a)



Figure S3.  $^2\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, CDCl\_3) recorded after reaction between 1a and 2a'

# 3. NMR spectra of isolated products

Product 3a-a



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-a)



Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-a) Product 3a-b



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-methoxyphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-b)



Figure S7.  $^{13}$ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-(4-methoxyphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-b)

Product 3a-c



Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-methylphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-c)



Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-methylphenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-c)

Product 3a-d



Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-fluorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-d)



Figure S12.<sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-fluorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-d)



Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-(4-chlorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-e)

#### Product 3a-f



Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-bromophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-f)



Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-(4-bromophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-f)



Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-naphth 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-g)



Figure S18. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-naphth 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-g)





Figure S20. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-phenyl 3-phenylpropanethioate (3a-h)





Figure S22. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanethioate (3b-a)



Figure S23.<sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-(4-fluorophenyl) 3-phenylpropanethioate (3b-a) Product 3c-a



Figure S24. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanethioate (3c-a)



Figure S25. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanethioate (3c-a)





Figure S26. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)propanethioate (3d-a)



Figure S27. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)propanethioate (3d-a)

Product 3e-a



Figure S28. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate (3e-a)



Figure S29. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate (3e-a)





Figure S30. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate (3f-a)



Figure S31. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanethioate (3f-a)

Product 3g-a



Figure S32. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)propanethioate (3g-a)



Figure S33. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)propanethioate (3g-a)

Product 3h-a



Figure S34. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(3-methoxy-4-acetoxyphenyl)-propanethioate (3h-a)



Figure S35. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(3-methoxy-4-acetoxyphenyl)-propanethioate (3h-a)

Product 3i-a



Figure S36. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl 3-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)propanethioate (3i-a)



Figure S37. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)propanethioate (3i-a)

Product 3j-a



Figure S38. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(2-furanyl)propanethioate (3j-a)



Figure S39. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 3-(2-furanyl)propanethioate (3j-a) Product 3k-a



Figure S40. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*-Benzyl hexanethioate (3k-a)





Figure S42. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 4-hexenethioate (3I-a)



Figure S43. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-Benzyl 4-hexenethioate (3I-a) Product 3I-a"



Figure S44. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-benzyl 5-(benzylthio)hexanethioate (3I-a")



Figure S45. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S-benzyl 5-(benzylthio)hexanethioate (3I-a") Product 5a



Figure S46. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*,*S*′-1,4-phenylene bis(3-phenylpropanethioate) (5a)



Figure S47. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-phenylpropanethioate) (5a)

Product 5b



Figure S48. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*,*S*'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propane-thioate) (5b)



Figure S49. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanethioate) (5b)

Product 5b



Figure S50. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*,*S*'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanethioate) (5b)



Figure S51. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S*′-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-chlorophenyl)propane-thioate) (5c)



Figure S52. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S*,*S*'-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-chlorophenyl)propane-thioate) (5c)

#### Product 5d



Figure S53. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-bromophenyl)propane-thioate) (5d)



Figure S54. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-bromophenyl)-propanethioate) (5d)





Figure S55. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-propanethioate) (5e)



Figure S56. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-propanethioate) (5e)





Figure S57. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-propanethioate) (5f)



Figure S58. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of *S,S'*-1,4-phenylene bis(3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-propanethioate) (5f)

## 4. References

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