Supplementary Information for

# Synthesis, structural characterization, reactivity and catalytic activity of mixed halo/triflate ArI(OTf)(X) species

Lachlan Sharp-Bucknall, Marcus Sceney, Keith F. White and Jason L. Dutton\*

Department of Biochemistry and Chemistry, La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, La Trobe University, Melbourne 3086, Australia

j.dutton@latrobe.edu.au

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## **General Experimental Details:**

All reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used as received. Glovebox solvents were dried using an Innovative Technologies Solvent Purification System. The dried solvents were stored under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere over 3 Å molecular sieves in the glovebox. Dry deuterated solvents for NMR spectroscopy were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and dried by stirring for three days over CaH<sub>2</sub>, distilled prior to use, and stored in the glovebox over 3 Å molecular sieves. I1 and I2 were synthesised according to literature procedure,<sup>1</sup> all other reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used as received. Experiments concerning I1, I3 and I5 were completed under inert conditions utilising Schlenck line and glovebox techniques unless stated otherwise. Procedures for catalytic chlorination reactions or utilising HOTf were performed under atmospheric conditions unless described otherwise, CDCl<sub>3</sub> for these reactions were distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored at atmospheric conditions over 3 Å molecular sieves. HOTf was stored in a Teflon tapped sealed flask under N2. Glassware was dried in an oven at 120 °C overnight and transferred to the glovebox port or Schlenk line where it was subjected to three vacuum cycles over 30 minutes prior to use. NMR spectra for all experiments were recorded using Bruker Ultrashield Plus 500 MHz and Ascend 400 MHz spectrometers.

#### **Synthetic Details:**

#### Synthesis of NO<sub>2</sub>-PhI



Following the procedure described by Kalid and Munawar.<sup>2</sup> To a solution of iodobenzene (9.3g, 45.6 mmol) in HOTFA (150 mL) was steadily added KNO<sub>3</sub> (4.6g, 45.6 mmol) which was allowed to stir for 10 minutes to receive a light brown solution. The solution was then heated to reflux for 4 hours until the brown colour dissipated. The resulting solution was poured into 350 mL of ice water to receive a yellow solid which was collected *via* filtration, washed with water (2 × 50 mL) and recrystallised from EtOH to receive NO<sub>2</sub>PhI as a pale-yellow powder (7.1g, 63% yield).

### Synthesis of I4



In adaptation of the procedure described by Zhang and Zhao.<sup>3</sup> A solution of NO<sub>2</sub>PhI (4.98g, 20 mmol) in MeCN (100 mL) was added 6-14% NaOCl solution (100 mL) followed by the dropwise addition of concentrated aq. HCl (40 mL). All solids were observed to dissolve to receive a homogenous solution, subsequently the separation of an orange organic layer was observed. The reaction was subsequently treated with water to receive a yellow precipitate until precipitation ceased. The yellow solid was collected *via* filtration and washed with water (2 x 20 mL) and a cold 1:1 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:hexanes) solution (2 x 20 mL) to receive **I4** as a light yellow solid (5.8g, 90% yield)

#### Synthesis of I3



To a suspension of **I2** (152 mg, 0.53 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 mL) was added TMS-OTf (118 mg, 0.53 mmol) to receive a clear solution. This solution was subsequently treated with hexanes and stored at -35 °C for 2 hours to receive a white solid which was collected *via* filtration and washed hexanes (2 × 5 mL) to receive **I3** as a clear crystalline solid (173 mg, 78 % yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.51 (d, 2H, *J*=9.0 Hz), 8.34(d, 2H, *J*=9.0 Hz)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 150.7, 137.6, 134.7, 129.5 (d,  $J_F$ = 16 Hz), 127.1, 118.4 (q,  $J_F$ = 319 Hz)

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): -76.4, -190.6

#### Synthesis of I5



A rapidly stirring solution of I4 (86 mg, 0.27 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 mL) was subject to the dropwise addition of I1 (146 mg, 0.27 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred for 5 minutes and subsequently treated with n-hexane (7 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated in vacuo to ~7.5 mL to precipitate a pale yellow solid. The concentrated solution was then treated with n-hexane (3 mL), where the precipitate was then collected *via* filtration and washed with n-hexane to receive I5 as a pale yellow solid (211 mg, 91% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.43 (m, 4H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 150.8, 138.8, 136.4, 127.2, 126.6, 118.9 (q,  $J_F$ = 319 Hz)

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): -77.0

#### General procedure for reaction of I3 with aryl substrates

To a solution of I3 (~15 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mL) was added the respective aryl substrate in mild excess. The reaction was subsequently taken for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis prior to having an aliquot taken for ESI-MS analysis.

#### **General Procedures for Chlorination of Deactivated Substrates:**

### (GP1) Chlorination using I5:

To a solution of **I5** (~25-30 mg, 0.06-0.07 mmol) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mL) was added ~1.05 eq. of respective aryl substrate. The reaction was then taken for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.\*

\**Reactions with benzotrifluoride and nitrobenzene were subject to 2 hours of heating at 70 °C in a sealed vessel prior to being taken for analysis.* 

#### (GP2) Catalytic chlorination using NO<sub>2</sub>PhI, HOTf and exogenous Cl<sub>2</sub>:

A 50 mL 3-necked flask was charged with a corresponding amount of TCICA with a stirrer bar and placed under a positive N<sub>2</sub> stream *via* side arm. To the other side arm was attached a drying tube attached to an oven dried gas bubbler which was subject to the positive N<sub>2</sub> stream. A reaction vial was then charged with NO<sub>2</sub>-PhI (20 mg), CDCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL) and HOTf (20  $\mu$ L). This solution was subsequently transferred to the gas bubbler. A dropping funnel containing 25 mL of concentrated aq. HCl was then added to the vertical arm of the 3-necked flask. The nitrogen stream was then closed off from the apparatus and HCl slowly delivered to the flask dropwise whilst stirring to steadily deliver dry Cl<sub>2</sub> to the bubbler over the course of 1-2 hours (apparatus observable in Figure **GP2**). Aliquots were taken during reaction for *in situ* <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis, where delivery of Cl<sub>2</sub> was ceased when substrates were consumed.

 $Cl_2$  generation should be performed in a well-ventilated fume hood and exhaust of reaction bubbler delivered to an aq. NaOH solution to quench gaseous HCl and  $Cl_2$ .

Substrate	Amount (mmol)	TCICA	HOTf	NO <sub>2</sub> -PhI
o-Dichlorobenzene	1.5 mL (13.3 mmol)	~14 g (52 mmol)	20 μL (0.23 mmol)	20 mg
1,3-Dibromobenzene	800 μL (6.09 mmol)	~8 g (~23 mmol)	20 μL (0.23 mmol)	20 mg
Chlorobenzene	850 μL (8.38 mmol)	~8 g (~23 mmol)	20 μL (0.23 mmol)	20 mg
2,6-dichlorotoluene	2.0 mL (9.4 mmol)	~9 g (~39 mmol)	25 μL (0.23 mmol)	30 mg

Table S1. Reaction scale for gram scale chlorination via GP2.



Figure GP2. General apparatus for dry  $Cl_2$  gas delivery to reaction.

## (GP3) Chlorination using I4 and catalytic HOTf:

To a solution of I4 (~50 mg, 15.6 mmol) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mL) was added ~1.1 eq. of the respective aryl substrate. 1.5  $\mu$ L of HOTf was then added and the reaction was stirred under indicated conditions (Scheme 11) prior to being taken for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.



Data:

Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of I3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **I3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S3. <sup>19</sup>F NMR of **I3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **I5** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



175 170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 ppm

Figure S5.  $^{13}$ C NMR of **I5** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of 1,3-dibromobenzene with **GP1**.



Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of 2,6-dichlorotoluene with GP1.



Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene with GP1.



Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of 4-chlorobromobenzene with GP1.



Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of *p*-dibromobenzene with **GP1**.



Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of nitrobenzene with GP1.



Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of benzotrifluoride with **GP1**. Product peaks obscured for CF<sub>3</sub> containing species.



Figure S14. <sup>19</sup>F NMR for chlorination of benzotrifluoride with GP1.



Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for chlorination of *o*-dichlorobenzene with GP1.



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of 2,6-dichlorotoluene with GP2.



Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of chlorobenzene with GP2.



Figure S18. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of *o*-dichlorobenzene with GP2.



Figure S19. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of 1,3-dibromobenzene with GP2.



Figure S20. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of bromobenzene using GP3.



Figure S21. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of 1,3-dibromobenzene using GP3.



Figure S22. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene using GP3.



Figure S23. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of 2,6-dichlorotoluene using GP3.



Figure S24. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of *o*-dichlorobenzene using GP3.



Figure S25. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of *p*-dibromobenzene using GP3.



Figure S26. <sup>1</sup>H NMR for catalytic chlorination of chlorobenzene using GP3.



Figure S27. In situ <sup>1</sup>H NMR of reaction between I3 and anisole displaying IS1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S28. In situ <sup>1</sup>H NMR of reaction between I3 and toluene displaying IS2 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

## Mass Spectral Data for IS1 and IS2.



Figure S29. Positive ESI-MS of reaction between I3 and anisole displaying IS1.



Figure S30. Positive ESI-MS of reaction between I3 and toluene displaying IS2.

# Reference NMR Spectral Data for Products Identified in Chlorination Reactions:

2,4-dibromochlorobenzene (1):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.76 (d, 1H, *J*= 2.2 Hz), 7.37 (dd, 1H, *J*= 8.5 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub>= 2.2 Hz), 7.31, (d, ClBr Br

## 2,6-dibromochlorobenzene (2):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.58 (d, 2H, *J*= 8.1 Hz), 6.98 (t, 1H, *J*= 8.1 Hz)



*p*-Dichlorobenzene (3): Commercial sample

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.26 (s, 4H)

## o-Dichlorobenzene (4): Commercial sample

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.44 (dd, 2H,  $J_1$ = 6.0 Hz,  $J_2$ = 3.6 Hz), 7.20 (dd, 2H,  $J_1$ = 6.0 Hz,  $J_2$ = 3.6 Hz) CI

### 2,5-dibromochlorobenzene (5): Commercial sample

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.60 (d, 1H, *J*= 2.2 Hz), 7.47 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.6 Hz), 7.25 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub>= 8.56 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub>= 2.2 Hz)



1,4-dibromo-2,5-chlorobenzene (6):<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.71 (2H)



## 2,3,6-trichlorotoluene (7):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.22-7.13 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H)



## 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene (8):<sup>5</sup> SDBS 1114

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.55 (s, 2H)



## 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorobenzene (9):<sup>5</sup> SDBS 1546

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.32 (s, 2H)



## 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (10): Commercial sample

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.46 (d, 2H, *J*=2.4 Hz), 7.37 (d, *J*= 8.6 Hz), 7.19 (dd,  $J_{I}$ = 8.6 Hz,  $J_{2}$ = 2.4 Hz) CI CI CI

## 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene (11):<sup>5</sup> SDBS 546

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.36 (d, 2H, *J*=8.1 Hz), 7.14 (t, 1H, *J*= 8.1 Hz)

## 4-Chlorobromobenzene (12): Commercial sample

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.41 (d, 2H, *J*= 8.5 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, *J*= 8.5 Hz)



## 2-Chlorobromobenzene (13):<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm):7.61 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.0 Hz), 7.45 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.0 Hz), 7.25 (t, 7.8 Hz), 7.12 (t, 1H, *J*= 7.8 Hz)



## 3,4-Dichlorobromobenzene (14):7

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm):7.60 (d, 1H, *J*= 1.5 Hz), 7.33 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub>= 8.5 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub>= 1.5 Hz), 7.30 (d,1H, *J*= 8.5 Hz) Br - Cl

CI-

## 2,4-Dichlorobromobenzene (15):8

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm):7.53 J= 2.2 Hz,  $J_2$ = 1.5 Hz), 7.11 (dd, 1H,  $J_I$ =

(d, 1H, 
$$J$$
= 8.5 Hz), 7.45 (d, 1H,  
Br 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$ = 2.2 Hz)

## 2,4,5-Trichlorobromobenzene (16):9

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H)



#### 3-Chloro-4-iodonitronbenzene (17):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.29 (d, 1H, *J*= 2.6 Hz), 8.08 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.7 Hz), 7.81 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub>=8.7 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub>= 2.6 Hz) O<sub>2</sub>N

#### 3-chloronitronbenzene (18):5

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.22 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.1 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, *J*=8. Hz), 7.53 (t, 1H, *J*=8.2 Hz) NO<sub>2</sub>



3-Chlorobenzotrifluoride (19):<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.65 1H) (s, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m 2H), 7.46 (t,

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): -62.9



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.65-2H)

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): -63.1



7.55 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.30 (m,

## 1,3-Dibromo-4,6-dichlorobenzene (21):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H)



## 1,3-Dibromo-2,6-dichlorobenzene (22):

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.51 (d, 1H, *J*=8.6 Hz), 7.24 (d, 1H, 8.6 Hz)



## **Computational Details:**

## Cartesian Coordinates for optimised compound geometries:

All geometry optimisation, vibrational frequency and molecular orbital calculations were performed using  $\omega$ PBE/def2-TZVP within Gaussian 16 using the WebMO platform.<sup>12-14</sup> The

structures obtained are minima with no negative frequencies. Cartesian coordinates are in Å and energies are given in Hartree.

NO<sub>2</sub>-PhIF(OTf) (I3)

Electronic Energy: -1794.83916486 Hartree

- S 0.0000000 0.0000000 0.0000000
- O -1.06648200 0.53263200 0.94945800
- I -2.01917000 2.41019300 0.60554000
- F -3.11494500 3.99681700 0.39936200
- C -3.78404800 1.30347300 0.64183300
- C -4.89665600 1.91867700 1.17893400
- C -6.08838400 1.22258900 1.19707400
- C -6.11762600 -0.05256300 0.67970800
- C -5.00728000 -0.66235200 0.14127400
- C -3.81102300 0.02728100 0.11889400
- Н -2.92866200 -0.44202300 -0.29477400
- Н -5.08163800 -1.66406300 -0.25868500
- N -7.39313200 -0.79497000 0.70193500
- O -8.34735700 -0.23869500 1.18494500
- O -7.39404900 -1.90615600 0.23606700
- Н -6.98759700 1.65806200 1.60999100
- H -4.84844100 2.92758200 1.56459800
- O -0.45376200 -1.16601200 -0.67295800

- C 1.23774400 -0.55683900 1.23466300
- F 2.28234300 -1.06100400 0.59523500
- F 1.63446900 0.47177400 1.97531200
- F 0.71826000 -1.48454400 2.02548900
- O 0.59857000 1.06834000 -0.72917600

NO<sub>2</sub>-PhICl(OTf) (**I5**)

Electronic Energy: -2155.10534185 Hartree

S 0.0000000 0.0000000 0.0000000

O -1.49700500 0.14912600 0.15302600

I -2.19276900 2.21157800 0.57196700

- Cl -3.25685200 4.26348400 1.02285400
- C -4.01722800 1.21920000 0.64669300
- C -4.81205300 1.38412200 1.76168300
- C -6.02654800 0.73028500 1.80723900
- $C \quad -6.38986400 \ -0.06010800 \ \ 0.73992400$
- C -5.59439000 -0.22860800 -0.37100000
- C -4.37988200 0.42577700 -0.42183800
- Н -3.72742600 0.30092800 -1.27534200
- Н -5.92737900 -0.86204000 -1.18138300
- N -7.69052300 -0.75802400 0.78989500
- O -8.36194200 -0.60309700 1.77862600
- O -7.99136900 -1.43337900 -0.16138400

- Н -6.68696400 0.82384000 2.65801800
- $H \quad -4.50416600 \quad 2.01805200 \quad 2.58292800$
- O 0.34359500 -0.93696800 -1.00487800
- C 0.43010400 -0.78643600 1.59970600
- F 1.74211400 -0.94540600 1.68252800
- F 0.02525100 -0.00846900 2.60587900
- F -0.16141400 -1.96764500 1.71338000
- O 0.61190900 1.29520700 0.03314700

# ADDITIONAL CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC DETAILS



Figure 1: The asymmetric unit of **I5**, showing both NO<sub>2</sub>-PhICl(OTf) units.

Selected Bond lengths [Å] for I5

I(1)-O(1)	2.332(5)
I(2)-O(6)	2.348(5)
I(1)-Cl(1)	2.359(2)
I(2)-Cl(2)	2.356(1)
S(1)-O(1)	1.486(5)
S(2)-O(6)	1.471(6)
S(1)-O(2)	1.428(6)
S(2)-O(7)	1.419(7)

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