Supporting Information

Site-Selective Carbonylation of Arenes via C(sp²)-H Thianthrenation: Direct Access to 1,2-Diarylethanones

Jiajun Zhang,^{[a] [b]} Le-Cheng Wang,^{[a] [b]} Zhi-Peng Bao,^{[a] [b]} Xiao-Feng Wu^{*[a] [b]}

[a] Dalian National Laboratory for Clean Energy, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 116023 Dalian, Liaoning, China

[b] Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse e. V., Albert-Einstein-Straβe 29a, 18059 Rostock, Germany xwu2020@dicp.ac.cn; Xiao-Feng.Wu@catalysis.de

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1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out under a carbon monoxide or nitrogen atmosphere. All reagents were from commercial sources, all solvents are extra dry solvents and used as received without further purification. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 meshes) using petroleum ether (b.p. 60-90 °C) and ethyl acetate as the eluents. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were taken on Bruker AVANCE III 400 MHz or 700 MHz spectrometers and spectral data were reported in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard and CDCl₃ or DMSO-D₆ as solvent. All coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz with the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet, t = triplet, dt = double triplet, q = quatriplet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were performed on an Agilent HP-7890A instrument with a FID detector and HP-5 capillary column (polydimethylsiloxane with 5% phenyl groups, 30 m, 0.32 mm i.d. 0.25 µm film thickness) using argon as carrier gas. Gas chromatography mass spectrometer (GC-MS) analyses were performed in an autoclave. The laboratory should well-equipped with a CO detector and alarm system.

2. Synthesis of the starting materials

2 mmol

2 mmol





The known 5-(*p*-tolyl)-5*H*-thianthren-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate was synthesized according to the literature^{1a}. A 100 mL schlenk tube was charged with thianthrene S-oxide (1.276 g, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), DCM (25 mL) and anisole (540 mg, 5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -40 °C and stirred at this temperature. Tf₂O (6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at -40 °C for 30 min, and then allowed to stir at room temperature for 12 h, neutralized by a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution, and extracted with DCM. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from DCM / diethyl ether system to afford 5-(*p*-tolyl)-5*H*-thianthren-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid.



The known aryl sulfonium salts 5-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-5H-thianthren-5-ium trjifluoromethanesulfonate was synthesized according to the literature^{1a}. A 25 mL schlenk tube was charged with thianthrene S-oxide (464 mg, 2 mmol, 1 equiv), DCM (5 mL) and m-xylene (212 mg, 2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -40 °C and stirred at this temperature. trifluoroacetic anhydride (TFAA, 6 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (TfOH, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 30 min, and then allowed to stir at room temperature for 12 h, neutralized by a saturated aqueous NaHCO3 solution, and extracted with DCM. The combined organic layers were washed with aqueous NaOTf solution (3×20 mL, 5% (w/w)), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from DCM / diethyl ether system to afford 5-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-5H-thianthren-5-ium

trjifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid.



(3) Preparation of Benzyl Chlorides

General procedure:^{1b} To a stirring solution of the corresponding benzyl alcohol (10 mmol), N,N-dimethylformamide (20 μ L) and CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) were added thionyl chloride (12 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C. After addition, the mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h. The complete consumption of the benzyl alcohol was verified by TLC or GC. Then the mixture was poured into saturated NaHCO₃ (20 mL), and extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), then dried over MgSO4, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography.

3. General Procedure

(1) Table S1: Optimization of yield as a function of catalyst

	TT OTf + CI MeCN, CO (10 bar)			
P j.Pr j.Pr		2a	3	
Xphos	DPPP	L_2	Xantphos	DPEphos
Entry	Catalyst Yield ^b			
1	No catalyst			n.o.
2	No Ligand			n.o.
3	$CuI + L_2$			n.o.
4	$Ni(acac)_2 + L_2$			n.o.
5	$Co(acac)_2 + L_2$			n.o.
6	$Pd(OAc)_2 + DPPP$			99% (97%)
7	$PdCl_2 + DPPP$			95%
8	$Pd(TFA)_2 + DPPP$			94%
9	$PdI_2 + DPPP$			95%
10	$Pd(OAc)_2 + Xantphos$			31%
11	$Pd(OAc)_2 + DPPF$			96%
12	$Pd(OAc)_2 + PPh_3 (2\%)$			30%
13	$Pd(OAc)_2 + TFP$			Trace
14	$Pd(OAc)_2 + XPhos$			Trace
15	$Pd(OAc)_2 + DPEphos$			32%
16	$Pd(OAc)_2 + BINAP$		41%	

n.o. = not observed.

(2) General procedure for carbonylative of aryl sulfonium salts.



A 4 mL screw-cap vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (1 mol%, 0.5 mg), DPPP (1 mol%, 0.8 mg), zinc powder (0.30 mmol, 19.6 mg), aryl sulfonium salts 1 (0.2 mmol), benzyl chlorides 2 (0.30 mmol) and an oven-dried stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon septum and cap and connected to the atmosphere via a needle. Then MeCN (2 mL) was added with a syringe under N₂ atmosphere, the vial was moved to an alloy plate and put into a Parr 4560 series autoclave (300 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. At room temperature, the autoclave was flushed with CO three times and charged with 10 bar CO. The autoclave was placed on a heating plate equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C for 20 h. After the reaction was completed, the crude mixture was filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA =1/0 to 20/1) on silica gel to afford the corresponding products. (3) General procedure for carbonylative of benzyl chlorides.



A 4 mL screw-cap vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (1 mol%, 0.5 mg), DPPP (1 mol%, 0.8 mg), zinc powder (0.30 mmol, 19.6 mg), aryl sulfonium salts **1a** (0.2 mmol, 91.2 mg), benzyl chlorides **2** (0.30 mmol) and an oven-dried stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon septum and cap and connected to the atmosphere via a needle. Then MeCN (2 mL) was added with a syringe under N₂ atmosphere, the vial was moved to an alloy plate and put into a Parr 4560 series autoclave (300 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. At room temperature, the autoclave was flushed with CO three times and charged with 10 bar CO. The autoclave was placed on a heating plate equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C for 20 h. After the reaction was completed, the crude mixture was filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA =1/0 to 20/1) on silica gel to afford the corresponding products.

4. Testing of alkyl (pseudo)halides



A 4 mL screw-cap vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (1 mol%, 0.5 mg), DPPP (1 mol%, 0.8 mg), zinc powder (0.30 mmol, 19.6 mg), aryl sulfonium salts **1a** (0.2 mmol, 91.2 mg), alkyl halides **2** (0.30 mmol) and an oven-dried stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon septum and cap and connected to the atmosphere via a needle. Then MeCN (2 mL) was added with a syringe under N₂ atmosphere, the vial was moved to an alloy plate and put into a Parr 4560 series autoclave (300 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. At room temperature, the autoclave was flushed with CO three times and charged with 10 bar CO. The autoclave was placed on a heating plate equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C for 20 h. After the reaction was completed, the crude mixture was filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA =1/0 to 20/1) on silica gel to afford the corresponding products.



A 4 mL screw-cap vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (1 mol%, 0.5 mg), DPPP (1 mol%, 0.8 mg), zinc powder (0.30 mmol, 19.6 mg), aryl sulfonium salts **1a** (0.2 mmol, 91.2 mg), 1-iodo-3-phenylpropane **3** (0.30 mmol) and an oven-dried stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon septum and cap and connected to the atmosphere via a needle. Then MeCN (2 mL) was added with a syringe under N₂ atmosphere, the vial was moved to an alloy plate and put into a Parr 4560 series autoclave (300 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. At room temperature, the autoclave was flushed with CO three times and charged

with 10 bar CO. The autoclave was placed on a heating plate equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C for 20 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction solution was detected by GC-MS. The detection results are shown in the figure below, and the molecular weight of the target molecule was detected at a retention time of 12.585 minutes.

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5. Characterization of Products



2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (1-1)²

40.8 mg, White solid, yield: 97%. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3, 144.0, 134.8, 134.2, 129.5, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 126.8, 45.4, 21.7.

1,2-diphenylethan-1-one $(1-2)^2$

38.8 mg, white solid, yield: 99 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/1 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 4.28 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.6, 136.6, 134.6, 133.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 126.9, 45.5.



 $1-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-3)^2$

38.3 mg, white solid, yield: 76 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.26, 156.93, 134.83, 134.06, 129.49, 128.68, 128.66, 126.84, 125.64, 45.48, 35.15, 31.11.



 $1-(4-ethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-4)^4$

43.9 mg, White solid, yield: 98%. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.69 (q, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3, 150.2, 134.8, 134.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 126.8, 45.5, 29.0, 15.2.

 $1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-5)^2$

34.8 mg, White solid, yield: 77 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 163.5, 135.0, 131.0, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 126.8, 113.8, 55.5, 45.3.

 $1-(4-iodophenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-6)^3$

25.1 mg, white solid, yield: 39 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 4.22 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9, 138.0, 135.8, 134.1, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 127.1, 101.2, 45.5.



 $1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-7)^2$

38.2 mg, white solid, yield: 83 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 3H), 4.25 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4, 139.6, 134.9, 134.2, 130.1, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.1, 45.6.



1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-8)⁵

49.0 mg, white solid, yield: 85 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 162.1, 155.4, 134.8, 131.2, 131.0, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 126.9, 124.7, 120.3, 117.3, 45.4.



2-phenyl-1-(4-(phenylthio)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1-9)

49.3 mg, white solid, yield: 81 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39 (q, *J* = 3.6, 2.2 Hz, 3H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.6, 145.2, 134.6, 134.1, 133.8, 131.9, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 127.3, 126.9, 45.4.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇OS 305.0995; found: 305.0995.



1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (**1-10**)⁴ 41.2 mg, white solid, yield: 92 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1. ¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.6, 142.8, 137.0, 134.9, 134.6, 129.9, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 126.8, 126.5, 45.4, 20.1, 19.8.



1-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-11)⁶

33.2 mg, colorless oil, yield: 74 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.7, 142.1, 139.3, 134.9, 134.5, 133.0, 129.5, 129.4, 128.6, 126.8, 126.3, 48.1, 21.6, 21.4.

Me

1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-12)⁷

39.0 mg, white solid, yield: 87 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.6, 137.7, 135.3, 135.1, 134.6, 132.1, 131.9, 129.6, 129.2, 128.6, 126.9, 48.4, 21.0, 20.8.



1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-13)⁸

40.9 mg, yellow oil, yield: 80 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3, 153.3, 149.1, 135.1, 129.8, 129.3, 128.7, 126.8, 123.5, 110.7, 110.0, 56.1, 56.0, 45.2.



1-(3-acetyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (**1-14**)

22.0 mg, white solid, yield: 41 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.43 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.7, 195.9, 162.4, 134.5, 134.3, 131.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.7, 127.8, 126.9, 111.8, 56.0, 45.3, 31.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆O₃Na 291.0992; found: 291.0985.

2-methoxy-5-(2-phenylacetyl)-benzonitrile (1-15)

36.2 mg, white solid, yield: 72 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.5, 164.3, 135.2, 134.9, 133.9, 129.6, 129.3, 128.9, 127.2, 115.5, 111.3, 102.3, 56.6, 45.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO₂ 252.1019; found: 252.1013.

1-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-6-yl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-16)

40.9 mg, yellow solid, yield: 86 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.23 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.1, 164.5, 135.1, 130.7, 130.0, 129.4, 128.6, 127.8, 126.8, 125.9, 109.0, 72.2, 45.3, 29.0.

methyl 5-(2,5-dimethyl-4-(2-phenylacetyl)phenoxy)-2,2-dimethylpentanoate (1-17) 57.3 mg, white solid, yield: 75 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 8.22 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 194.5, 164.3, 135.2, 134.9, 133.9, 129.6, 129.3, 128.9, 127.2, 115.5, 111.3, 102.3, 56.6, 45.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₄H₃₁O₄ 383.2217; found: 383.2243.



(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-3-methoxy-13-methyl-2-(2-phenylacetyl)-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17-one (**1-18**)

37.8 mg, white solid, yield: 47 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.97 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.56 – 2.39 (m, 2H), 2.24 – 2.01 (m, 4H), 1.98 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.42 (m, 6H), 0.89 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 220.6, 199.5, 156.7, 143.1, 135.5, 132.3, 129.7, 128.3, 128.1, 126.5, 125.6, 111.8, 55.5, 50.4, 50.1, 48.0, 43.8, 38.2, 35.8, 31.5, 29.9, 26.3, 25.8, 21.6, 13.8.



methyl 2-(4-isobutyl-3-(2-phenylacetyl)phenyl)propanoate (1-19)

34.5 mg, colorless oil, yield: 51 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.55 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.73 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.77 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.50 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.1, 174.7, 140.4, 138.7, 137.8, 134.3, 132.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.6, 127.4, 126.9, 52.2, 49.2, 44.9, 42.1, 30.0, 22.4, 18.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₂H₂₇O₃ 339.1955; found: 339.1963.



(3R,8S,9S,10R,13R,14S,17R)-10,13-dimethyl-17-((S)-6-methylheptan-2-yl)-

2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-yl 2-methoxy-5-(2-phenylacetyl)benzoate (**1-20**)

89.4 mg, white solid, yield: 70 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.44 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.16 – 8.09 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.46 – 5.38 (m, 1H), 4.92 – 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.51 – 2.43 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.96 (m, 3H), 1.95 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.79 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.61 – 1.44 (m, 6H), 1.43 – 1.27 (m, 4H), 1.26 – 1.20 (m, 2H), 1.18 – 1.08 (m, 5H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.05 – 0.98 (m, 3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.88 – 0.85 (m, 6H), 0.69 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.7, 164.6, 162.6, 139.6, 134.6, 134.0, 132.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 126.9, 122.8, 120.7, 111.8, 74.9, 56.7, 56.3, 56.2, 50.1, 45.5, 42.3, 39.8, 39.5, 38.2, 37.1, 36.7, 36.2, 35.8, 32.0, 31.9, 28.3, 28.0, 27.9, 24.3, 23.9, 22.9, 22.6, 21.1, 19.4, 18.7, 11.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₄₃H₅₉O₄ 639.4408; found: 639.4411.



4-(4-(2-phenylacetyl)phenoxy)phenyl benzoate (1-21)

63.7 mg, White solid, yield: 78 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 10/1.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 165.2, 162.0, 152.9, 147.5, 134.7, 133.8, 131.4, 131.0, 130.2, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 128.7, 126.9, 123.3, 121.2, 117.3, 45.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₇H₂₁O₄ 409.1434; found: 409.1435.



4-(4-(2-phenylacetyl)phenoxy)phenyl

((1R,4S)-7,7-dimethyl-2-oxobicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-1-

yl)methanesulfonate (1-22)

86.0 mg, colorless oil, yield: 83 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 10/0 to 5/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.84 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, J = 15.0 Hz)Hz, 1H), 2.63 – 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.48 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.98 (d, J = 18.5 Hz, 1H), 1.77 -1.70 (m, 1H), 1.52 - 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 214.1, 196.2, 161.4, 154.3, 145.3, 134.7, 131.7, 131.1, 129.4, 128.7, 126.9, 123.9, 121.2, 117.7, 58.2, 48.0, 47.7, 45.5, 42.9, 42.5, 26.9, 25.2 20.0, 19.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₃₀H₃₁O₆S 519.1836; found: 519.1840.



1-(4-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)phenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1-23)

43.2 mg, White solid, yield: 71 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 10/1 to 5/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.96 -6.89 (m, 4H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.0, 163.2, 153.1, 148.2, 134.7, 131.1, 130.5, 129.4, 128.7, 126.9, 121.9, 116.7, 116.4, 45.4.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₆NaO₃ 327.0992; found: 327.0982.



1,2-di-*p*-tolylethan-1-one $(2-1)^9$

44.4 mg, white solid, yield: 99 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.5, 143.9, 136.4, 134.1, 131.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.3, 128.8, 45.1, 21.7, 21.1.



2-(o-tolyl)-1-(p-tolyl) ethan-1-one $(2-2)^9$

41.2 mg, white solid, yield: 92 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.94 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 144.0, 136.9, 134.4, 133.7, 130.4, 130.3, 129.4, 128.5, 127.2, 126.1, 43.4, 21.7, 19.8.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-(p-tolyl) ethan-1-one (2-3)¹⁰

35.1 mg, colorless oil., yield: 73 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 – 6.81 (m, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 159.8, 144.0, 136.3, 134.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.8, 121.8, 115.1, 112.3, 55.2, 45.5, 21.7.

^tBu

2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2-4)

34.1 mg, colorless oil, yield: 64 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (101MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.5, 149.6, 144.0, 134.2, 131.7, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 125.6, 44.9, 34.5, 31.4, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂ONa 289.1563; found: 289.1567.



2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2-5)9

24.2 mg, white solid, yield: 53 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.1, 161.9 (d, *J* = 245.0 Hz), 144.2, 134.0, 131.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.4, 128.7, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 44.4, 21.7.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.2.

 $2-(4-\text{chlorophenyl})-1-(p-\text{tolyl})\text{ethan}-1-\text{one}(2-6)^9$

46.9 mg, white solid, yield: 96 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.8, 144.3, 133.9, 133.2, 132.8, 130.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 44.6, 21.7.

 $2-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2-7)^{11}$

53.0 mg, white solid, yield: 92 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7, 144.3, 133.9, 133.7, 131.7, 131.3, 129.4, 128.7, 120.9, 44.7, 21.7.

Me

 $2-(3-bromophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2-8)^{12}$

57.0 mg, white solid, yield: 99 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.5, 144.3, 137.0, 133.9, 132.6, 130.1, 130.0, 129.5, 128.7, 128.2, 122.6, 44.8, 21.7.



2-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-one (**2-9**)

23.0 mg, white solid, yield: 45 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 144.1, 136.8, 134.0, 131.6, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 127.0, 44.9, 21.7, 16.0.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇OS 257.0995; found: 257.0997.

OCF₃

1-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)ethan-1-one (2-10)

35.9 mg, colorless oil, yield: 61 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7, 148.1, 144.4, 133.9, 133.4, 130.9, 129.5, 128.7, 121.1, 120.5 (q, *J* = 256.9 Hz), 44.4, 21.7.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -57.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃F₃O₂Na 317.0760; found: 317.0761.

CF

1-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (**2-11**)

42.8 mg, white solid, yield: 77 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3, 144.5, 138.8, 133.8, 130.0, 129.5, 129.2 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 128.7, 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 124.2 (q, *J* = 273.8 Hz), 45.0, 21.7.

¹⁹F NMR (**376** MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄F₃O 279.0991; found: 279.0996.



2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-one (**2-12**)⁹

43.2 mg, white solid, yield: 83 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 3H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.4, 144.1, 134.1, 133.6, 132.4, 132.4, 129.4, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 127.7, 127.6, 126.1, 125.7, 45.7, 21.7.



2,2'-(1,3-phenylene)bis(1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-one) (2-13)⁹

34.9 mg, white solid, yield: 51 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 4.23 (s, 4H), 2.40 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 144.0, 135.1, 134.1, 130.6, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 45.3, 21.7.

1-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(4-vinylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2-14)

34.9 mg, white solid, yield: 74 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 6.75 – 6.62 (m, 1H), 5.77 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 5.26 – 5.17 (m, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 144.0, 136.5, 136.2, 134.4, 134.1, 129.6, 129.3, 128.8, 126.5, 113.7, 45.2, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₇O 237.1274; found: 237.1274.

Me

2-(perfluorophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2-15)¹³

54.6 mg, white solid, yield: 91 %. Eluent: pentane/ethyl acetate = 1/0 to 20/1.

¹**H NMR** (**400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.5, 146.6, 145.0, 144.1, 141.7, 138.7, 136.2, 133.2, 129.6, 128.4, 108.7 (t, *J* = 20.7 Hz), 32.4, 21.7.

¹⁹**F** NMR (**376** MHz, CDCl₃) δ -142.2 - -142.5 (m), -155.7 (t, J = 20.8 Hz), -162.6 - -162.8 (m).

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7. Copy of ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Products

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1-1





















































































210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)









fl (ppm)



















fl (ppm)





























fl (ppm)



















