Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

Photocatalytic aerobic α -oxygenation of amides to imides using a highly durable decatungstate tetraphenylphosphonium salt

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1. Experimental

Reagents

Tetraphenylphosphonium bromide (TPPBr), *N*-methylphthalimide, benzophenone, xanthone, anthraquinone, 2chloroanthraquinone, acetonitrile-*d*₃ (CD₃CN), 2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, 1-phenyl-2-pyrrolidone, 2-piperidone, *N*-methylacetamide, *N*-methylbenzamide, and *N*-benzylacetamide were obtained from Tokyo Chemical Industry. Acetonitrile and acetone were obtained from Kanto Chemical. Eosin Y, 1-methyl-2piperidone, and water-¹⁸O (97 atom% ¹⁸O) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone was obtained from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical. TiO₂ (P25) was obtained from Ishihara Sangyo. ¹⁸O₂ (98 atom% ¹⁸O) was obtained from Taiyo Nippon Sanso. These reagents were used as received. TBA₄[W₁₀O₃₂] (TBA**W10**),^{S1} TBA₃[α -PW₁₂O₄₀],^{S2} and TBA₄H[γ -PV₂W₁₀O₄₀]^{S3} were synthesized according to the reported procedures, and characterized by ESI-MS, IR, and/or NMR spectra.

Instruments

Positive-ion electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) spectra were measured on JEOL JMS-T100CS spectrometer. IR spectra were measured on JASCO FT/IR-4100 using KBr disks. UV-vis spectra were measured on JASCO V-770 using a quartz cell of 1 cm path length. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were conducted by Shimadzu GC-2025 equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID) with an InertCap5 capillary column using N₂ as carrier gas. GC mass spectrometry (GC-MS) spectra were measured on Shimadzu GCMS-QP2020 with an InertCap5 capillary column at an ionization voltage of 70 eV. ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra were measured on JEOL ECA-500 spectrometer (¹H, 500.16 MHz; ³¹P, 202.47 MHz) using 5 mm tubes. Chemical shifts (δ) were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane for ¹H NMR spectra and from H₃PO₄ (solvent, D₂O) for ³¹P NMR spectra.

Synthesis of TPP₄[W₁₀O₃₂] (TPPW10)

Sodium tungstate (Na₂WO₄·2H₂O, 16 g) and water (100 mL) were added into a 300 mL-round flask, and the resultant solution was heated to approximately 100 °C with stirring. Hot 3M HCl aqueous solution (33.5 mL) was quickly added to the solution. After stirring the solution for a few minutes, hot tetraphenylphosphonium bromide (TPPBr) aqueous solution (10.4 g of TPPBr in 30 mL of hot water) was added to the reaction solution. The solution was vigorously stirred and filtrated to collect the precipitate. The white solid was successively washed with hot water (90 °C, 100 mL), water (100 mL), ethanol (50 mL), and diethyl ether (50 mL). The solid was dried in vacuo for 3 h, then freeze dried over night to obtain TPP**W10** (16 g, 89% yield based on W). Single crystals suitable for the X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by recrystallization of the product in a mixed solvent of acetonitrile and diethyl ether ESI-MS: m/z 2193.4 ([TPP₆W₁₀O₃₂]²⁺), 4047.0 ([TPP₅W₁₀O₃₂]⁺). IR (KBr): 1167, 1632, 1586, 1484, 1438, 1338, 1320, 1190, 1109, 997, 958, 900, 802, 753, 724, 689, 528, 436, 402, 335 cm⁻¹. UV-vis (CH₃CN): 324 nm. ¹H NMR (CD₃CN): 7.93 (m, 4H), 7.76 (m, 8H), 7.69 (m, 8H) ppm. ³¹P NMR (CD₃CN): 23.3 ppm.

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis

Diffraction measurements for the single crystals of TPP**W10** were performed on a Rigaku XtaLab Synergy-R diffractometer with rotating-anode Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, 50 kV, 24 mA) at -180 °C. The data were collected and processed using CrysAlisPro.^{S4} In the reduction of data, Lorentz and polarization corrections were made. Structural analyses were performed using Olex2.^{S5} All structures were solved by SHELXS and refined by SHELXL-2018/3.^{S6} All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. CCDC-2336024 contains the crystallographic data for TPP**W10**. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Typical procedure for photocatalytic aerobic α-oxygenation of amides to imides

Into a glass test tube, substrate (amide, 0.6 mmol), TPPW10 (0.7 mol%), acetonitrile (3 mL) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar were added, then heated at 50 °C for a few minutes to dissolve the substrate and TPPW10. The test tube was placed in a water bath and photo-irradiated using a xenon lamp ($\lambda > 350$ nm, Excelitas Technologies PE300BFA) or LED ($\lambda = 365$ nm and 405 nm, Asahi Spectra Co., Ltd.) for 4 h under open air (Fig. S7). Detailed reaction conditions are described in the footnotes of tables and figures. After the photocatalytic reaction, *N*-methylphthalimide was added to the reaction solution as internal standard. The reaction solution was diluted with acetone for GC and GC-MS measurements. The conversion of substrate and yields of products were determined with GC by using internal standard technique. The products were identified by the retention time of GC, GC-MS spectra, and ¹H NMR spectra. Several products were isolated by silica gel column chromatography.

Recovery of TPPW10 after the photocatalytic reaction

After the photocatalytic oxidation of **1a** for 4 h using TPP**W10** as photocatalyst in acetonitrile (3 mL), the reaction solution was diluted with acetonitrile (1 mL) then added into ethyl acetate (15 mL). The solution was allowed to stand for 5 min and the precipitated TPP**W10** was collected by filtration. Recovered TPP**W10** was vacuum dried and characterized by IR, ESI-MS, and NMR spectra.

2. Characterization of TPPW10



Fig. S1 Positive-ion ESI-MS spectrum of TPPW10 in CH₃CN.



Fig. S2 IR spectra of TBAW10, TPPBr, and TPPW10 (KBr disc).



Fig. S3 UV-vis spectrum of TPPW10 in CH₃CN (0.03 mM).



Fig. S4 UV-vis spectrum of TPPBr in CH₃CN (1.0 M).



Fig. S5 (a) 1 H and (b) 31 P NMR spectra of TPPW10 in CD₃CN.



Fig. S6 Crystal structure of TPP**W10**: (a) anion structures and (b) packing structures (color code: W, green; O, red; C, black; P, blue; H, pink; {WO₆}, green octahedra).

3. Photocatalytic reaction setup



Fig. S7 A reaction set up for the photocatalytic reaction.

4. Recovery of TPPW10 after the photocatalytic reaction



Fig. S8 A photograph of the recovered TPPW10 after the photocatalytic aerobic α -oxygenation of 1a.



Fig. S9 IR spectra of the fresh and recovered TPPW10 after the photocatalytic aerobic α -oxygenation of 1a (KBr disc).



Fig. S10 ESI-MS spectrum of the recovered TPPW10 in CH₃CN after the photocatalytic aerobic α -oxygenation of 1a.

5. Degradation of TBAW10 after the photocatalytic reaction



Fig. S11 ¹H NMR spectra of TBAW10 in CD₃CN before and after the photocatalytic aerobic α -oxygenation of 1a. (a) Before the reaction, (b) after the reaction using Xe lamp, (c) after the reaction using 365 nm LED, and (c) after the reaction using 405 nm LED. The degradation of TBA was observed after the photocatalytic reaction using both Xe lamp and LED.

6. ¹⁸O isotope labelling experiments



Fig. S12 GC-MS spectra of the product 2a when the α -oxygenation of 1a using TPPW10 (0.7 mol%) was performed under (a) open air and (b) ¹⁸O₂ atmosphere.



Fig. S13 GC-MS spectra of the product 2a when the α -oxygenation of 1a using TPPW10 (0.7 mol%) was performed in the presence of H₂¹⁸O (a, 59 mg; b, 294 mg).

7. Comparison with previously reported photocatalytic systems

Photocatalyst	Additive	Oxidant, O source	Time (h)	Scope	Product and yield	Ref.
TPP W10 (0.7 mol%)	-	O ₂	4	Lactams, aliphatic amides, benzamides, benzylamides	0	This work
Benzophenone (25 mol%)	_	O ₂	Not described	Lactams	0	S7
TiO ₂ (0.5 mol%)	_	O ₂	48	Lactams		S8
I ₂ (1 mol%)	_	O ₂	48	Benzylamides	71%	S9
48% HBr aq (5 mol%)	Ca(OH) ₂ (2.5 mol%)	O ₂	10	Benzylamides	96%	S10
2- Chloroanthraquinone (10 mol%)	-	O ₂	10	Benzylamides	95%	S11
KBr (30 mol%)	_	Oxone (2 mol%)	7	<i>N</i> -alkylbenzamides, lactams, aliphatic amides, benzylamides	85%	S12
N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) (200 mol%)	_	H ₂ O	1	N-alkylbenzamides, benzylamides	91%	S13
CuCl ₂ (5 mol%)	NH4Cl (20 mol%)	O ₂ , H ₂ O	72	Benzamides, etc.	83%	S14
Fe(NO ₃) ₃ •9H ₂ O (8 mol%)	NaBrO3 (200 mol%)	O ₂ , H ₂ O, •OH	12	Benzylamides, benzamide, aliphatic amides	94%	S15

Table S1. Reported photocatalytic systems for direct imides synthesis via α-oxygenation of amides.

8. Radical scavenger test

	TPP W10 (0. O Photo-irrad	7 mol%) diation O	$\langle N \rangle = 0$ + $\langle N \rangle = 0$		
1a	CH ₃ CN, oper	n air, 4 h	2a	3a	
Entry	Radical scavenger	$C_{any}(0/) \circ f 1_{a}$	Yield (%)		
Entry		Conv. (%) of 1a	2a	3 a	
1	_	>99	83	1	
2	TEMPO	64	3	<1	

Table S2. Effect of radical scavenger for the photocatalytic α -oxygenation of 1a using TPPW10.^a

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.6 mmol), photocatalyst (0.7 mol%), 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine 1-oxyl (TEMPO, 2 equivalents with respect to **1a**), acetonitrile (3 mL), open air, 4 h, photo-irradiation by Xe lamp ($\lambda > 350$ nm). Conversions and yields were determined by GC using *N*-methylphthalimide as an internal standard.

9. Product data



2a (CAS No. 1121-07-9): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 5.33 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 114 (5), 113 (94) [*M*⁺], 85 (11), 84 (6), 58 (20), 57 (17), 56 (100), 55(19), 43 (7), 42 (10), 30(6).^{S16} ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS) & 2.85 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.59 (s, 4H, -CH₂-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS): δ 178.9, 28.9, 24.9 ppm. Isolated as white solid (Isolated yield: 34%; silica gel column chromatography; ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1/0.5, *R*_f = 0.32).



2b (CAS No. 2314-78-5): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 5.97 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 128(7), 127 (93) [*M*⁺], 112(15), 100(5), 99 (23), 84 (60), 71(7), 70 (11), 57 (18), 56 (100), 55 (38), 44 (15), 42 (16), 41 (16), 30(10).^{S17}



2c (CAS No. 83-25-0): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 12.2 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 176 (12), 175 (100) [*M*⁺], 147 (12), 146 (9), 130(7), 120 (31), 119 (65), 118 (13), 104(9), 93 (37), 92 (20), 91 (20), 77 (26), 64 (16), 63(8), 56(22), 55 (30), 51 (10), 39(6). ^{S16}



2d (CAS No. 25077-25-2): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 6.76 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 127 (62) [*M*⁺], 99(9), 98 (20), 71 (12), 70 (22), 58 (9), 55 (15), 43 (12), 41 (100), 41 (12), 39(11).^{S18}



2e (CAS No. 123-56-8): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 5.84 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 100 (5), 99 (100) [*M*⁺], 70 (6), 56 (84), 55 (8), 42 (6.6). ^{S18 1}H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS) δ : 9.02 (s, 1H, -NH-), 2.62 (s, 4H, -CH₂-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS): δ 179.8, 30.4 ppm. Isolated as white solid (Isolated yield: 69%, silica gel column chromatography; ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1/0.2, *R*_f = 0.29).



2f (CAS No. 1121-89-7): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 µm, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 6.64 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 114(3), 113 (48) [*M*⁺], 70 (33), 55 (2), 44 (2), 43 (5), 42 (100), 41 (10), 39 (9).^{S19} ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS) & 8.74 (brs, 1H, -NH-), 2.48 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.94-1.89 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS): δ 174.4, 32.1, 18.5 ppm. Isolated as white solid (Isolated yield: 46%, Silica gel column chromatography; ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1/0.5, *R*_f = 0.21).



2g (CAS No. 21163-79-1): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 3.16 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 87 (8) [*M*⁺], 59 (100), 44 (47), 43 (86), 42 (23), 41 (5).^{S20}



2h (CAS No. 4252-31-7): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C;

retention time, 10.2 min. MS (EI) m/z (%): 149 (9) $[M^+]$, 121 (50), 106 (8), 105 (100), 104 (7), 103 (7), 78 (8), 77 (81), 51 (32), 50 (13). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS) δ : 9.69 (brs, 1H, -NH-), 9.27 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H, -CHO-), 7.94-7.92 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.54 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS): δ 168.2, 164.4, 134.5, 132.8, 129.8, 129.1 ppm. Isolated as white solid (Isolated yield: 31%, silica gel column chromatography; ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1/0.7, $R_{\rm f} = 0.42$).



2i (CAS No. 1575-95-7): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 µm, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 10.5min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 163(22) [*M*⁺], 162(24), 70 (33), 106 (9), 105 (100), 77 (51), 51 (18), 50 (6), 43 (23).^{S22} ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS) & 9.30 (brs, 1H, -NH-), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 2.41 (s, 3H, -CH₃) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN, TMS): δ 173.3, 167.2, 134.3, 133.8, 129.6, 129.0, 25.8 ppm. Isolated as white solid (Isolated yield: 45%, silica gel column chromatography; ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1/3, *R*_f = 0.21).



2j (CAS No. 614-28-8): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 50 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 14.9 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 225 (18) [*M*⁺], 207 (16), 197 (10), 122 (19), 105 (100), 103 (55), 77 (61), 76 (24), 51 (24), 50 (15).^{S22,S23}



2k (CAS No. 4252-56-6): GC conditions and analysis: InertCap5 capillary column (df = 0.25 μ m, I.D. = 0.25 mm, 30 m, GL Science Inc.); carrier gas (N₂) flow rate, 1.6 mL/min; initial column temp., 50 °C; final column temp., 280 °C; progress rate, 10 °C min⁻¹ (10 min), 20 °C min⁻¹ (6.5 min); injection temp., 250 °C; detection temp., 280 °C; retention time, 13.4 min. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 203 (10) [M⁺], 202 (9), 175 (12), 146 (3), 105 (100), 77 (49), 51 (12).^{S23}

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of products











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