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Supporting Information

Metal-free Photocatalytic Oxidative Coupling of Cyclic Ether and Alcohol

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1. General Information

All commercially available chemicals were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using TLC silica gel 60-F₂₅₄ plates. TLC plates were visualized by UV fluorescence (254 nm) or stained by Cerium Molybdate followed by heating. Purification of the reaction products was carried out by column chromatography using Siliaflash-P60 (40-63 μ m) silica gel available from Silicycle. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on a BRUKER AV-500 (500 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on a BRUKER AV-500 (125 MHz). Data for ¹H-NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet), coupling constant(s) in Hz and integration. Data for ¹³C-NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ , ppm). High-resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) data were obtained using Agilent Technologies 6530 Accurate Mass Q-TOF LC/MS. Irradiation of photochemical reactions was carried out using two 12W PAR38 Blue LED flood lamps from ABi LED lighting. Yields refer to chromatographically and spectroscopically purified compounds.

2. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

Preparation of Acridinium Catalysts



2-Bromo-5-methoxy-1,3-dimethylbenzene (S2) was prepared according to literature procedure.^[1] To a solution of 2-Bromo-5-methoxy-1,3-dimethylbenzene (5.83 g, 1.0 eq) in anhydrous THF (50 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (11.88 mL, 2.5 M in hexanes, 1.1 eq) dropwise at -78 °C under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour. Subsequently, 10-methylacridin-9(10H)-one (4.81 g, 0.85 eq) was added, and the reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) plate. After completion, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and the mixture was extracted with Ethyl Acetate (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatograph to afford hydroxy substituted intermediate. Then, the purified intermediate was dissolved in 50 mL anhydrous THF, and HCl (8.6 mL, 4M in 1,4-dioxane, 1.5 eq) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours. The resulting yellow solid was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to yield the final acridinium catalyst as a yellow powder. ^[2]

General Procedure:

To a 5 mL oven-dried glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 0.2 mmol of the alcohol and 0.04 mmol of the photocatalyst were added, followed by 2 mL of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF). The vial was capped with a rubber septum, and a needle was inserted to allow air flow. The mixture was stirred continuously under Blue-LED irradiation for three days. Progress of the reaction was monitored periodically by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), using a hexane:ethyl acetate (10:1) solvent system and visualized with cerium ammonium molybdate (CAM) stain. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by flash column chromatography to yield the desired product.

TEMPO Trap Experiment:



To a 5 mL oven-dried glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 0.2 mmol of the benzyl alcohol, 0.04 mmol of the photocatalyst A, and 0.3 mmol TEMPO were added, followed by 2 mL of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF). The vial was capped with a rubber septum, and a needle was inserted to allow air flow. The mixture was stirred continuously under Blue-LED irradiation for three days. Progress of the reaction was monitored periodically by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), using a hexane:ethyl acetate (10:1) solvent system and visualized with cerium ammonium molybdate (CAM) stain. A new spot of TEMPO trapped product (S4) was isolated by flash column chromatography and confirmed by ¹H-NMR.

TEMPO trapped product (S4)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.35 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 – 3.78 (m, 2H), 2.04 – 1.91 (m, 3H), 1.78 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.64 – 1.40 (m, 6H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H).

Catalyst A



¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.89 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.49 – 8.42 (m, 2H), 7.93 (dd, J = 8.9, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 4.93 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO) δ 161.06, 160.68, 141.80, 139.07, 137.79, 128.98, 128.73, 126.23, 125.02, 120.23, 114.03, 55.76, 20.25.

ESI-HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₂₂NO⁺ [M]⁺ 328.1696, found 328.1702.

Catalyst D



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.88 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.37 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (s, 2H), 5.22 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.14, 158.47, 141.37, 138.95, 129.96, 127.51, 127.12, 119.19, 102.23, 90.99, 67.98, 55.89, 40.13, 25.61.

ESI-HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₂₂NO₃⁺ [M]⁺ 360.1594, found 360.1615.

Compound 3a: 2-(benzyloxy)tetrahydrofuran



3a

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 – 5.23 (m, 1H), 4.73 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.99 – 3.89 (m, 2H), 2.08 – 1.86 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.39, 128.39, 127.89, 127.52, 103.13, 68.80, 67.05, 32.38, 23.50. Compound 3b: 2-((4-methylbenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3b

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.99 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.05 – 1.82 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.20, 135.28, 129.05, 128.01, 102.96, 68.65, 66.98, 32.34, 23.48, 21.16.

Compound 3c: 2-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3c

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (dt, *J* = 15.3, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 1.81 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 129.53, 129.44, 113.81, 102.86, 71.48, 68.47, 66.99, 55.30, 32.35, 23.51.

Compound 3d: 2-((4-nitrobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3d

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.80 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 – 3.90 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.88 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.27, 146.27, 127.81, 123.58, 103.69, 67.59, 67.33, 32.43, 23.44.

Compound 3e: methyl 4-(((tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)oxy)methyl)benzoate



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 4.76 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.90 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.06 – 1.86 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.02, 143.83, 129.68, 129.21, 127.30, 103.45, 77.28, 77.23, 77.03, 76.77, 68.18, 67.17, 52.08, 32.40, 23.46.

Compound 3f: 2-((4-bromobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3f

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.04 – 1.82 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.47, 131.45, 129.46, 121.34, 103.21, 68.02, 67.12, 32.37, 23.46.

Compound 3g: 2-((4-chlorobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3g

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94 – 3.89 (m, 2H), 2.06 – 1.84 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.94, 133.22, 129.13, 128.50, 103.20, 68.00, 67.11, 32.37, 23.46.

Compound 3h: 2-((3-chlorobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3h

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.96 – 3.88 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.83 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.58, 134.27, 129.60, 127.75, 127.57, 125.70, 103.30, 67.98, 67.15, 32.38, 23.45.

Compound 3i: 2-((2-chlorobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 2.10 – 1.87 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.21, 133.08, 129.28, 129.18, 128.56, 126.69, 103.64, 67.19, 66.08, 32.41, 23.45.

Compound 3j: 2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran



3j

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.86 (m, 4H).

 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 142.62, 129.76, 129.51, 127.69, 125.32, 125.29, 125.26, 125.23, 123.13, 103.43, 67.98, 67.19, 32.39, 23.44.

¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.50.

Compound 3k: 2-(4-methoxyphenethoxy)tetrahydrofuran





¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 3.83 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.57 (q, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.00 – 1.78 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.01, 131.19, 129.84, 113.71, 103.81, 68.20, 66.88, 55.26, 35.47, 32.37, 23.49.

Compound 3I: 2-(cyclohexyloxy)tetrahydrofuran



31

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.28 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.86 – 3.81 (m, 1H), 3.52 (hept, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.85 (m, 4H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 4H), 1.34 – 1.12 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 101.71, 74.63, 66.55, 33.99, 32.61, 32.07, 25.75, 24.51, 24.37, 23.59.

Compound 3m: 2-(4-chlorophenoxy)tetrahydrofuran



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), δ 3.99 (dq, *J* = 43.8, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.19 – 1.91 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.81, 129.26, 126.46, 117.90, 102.60, 68.14, 32.70, 23.38.

Compound 3n: 2-(((tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)oxy)methyl)furan

3n

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (dd, J = 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.38 – 6.25 (m, 2H), 5.21 (t, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (dtd, J = 22.1, 8.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.03 – 1.81 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.77, 142.78, 110.25, 109.16, 102.72, 67.10, 60.57, 32.28, 23.39.

Compound 3o: 2-(thiophen-2-ylmethoxy)tetrahydrofuran



30

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dtd, *J* = 27.4, 8.0, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.83 (m, 4H).

 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.10, 126.67, 126.41, 125.74, 102.60, 67.15, 63.13, 32.33, 23.43.

Compound 3p: 2-((4-chlorobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran



3p

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 4H), 4.75 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (ddd, *J* = 11.3, 8.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dq, *J* = 10.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (qt, *J* = 8.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.74 (tt, *J* = 9.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.68 – 1.53 (m, 4H).

 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.84, 133.25, 129.11, 128.51, 97.83, 68.06, 62.19, 30.54, 25.45, 19.34.

Compound 3q: 2-((4-chlorobenzyl)oxy)-1,4-dioxane



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 4H), 4.80 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (ddd, *J* = 11.2, 6.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.75 – 3.66 (m, 3H), 3.64 – 3.55 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.01, 133.60, 129.32, 128.61, 94.72, 68.85, 68.53, 66.21, 61.52.



3. Copies of Related NMR Spectra













































































3. Crystal Structure Solution and Refinement

Data collection of **A-II** was performed on Bruker VENTURE system equipped with a PHOTON 100 CMOS detector, a Mo-target fine-focus X-ray source ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å), and a graphite monochromator. The data was collected under 100(2) K (Oxford Cryosystems CRYOSTREAM 700) using 50 kV and 30 mA with an appropriate 0.5° ω scan strategy. Data reduction and integration were performed with SAINT (version 8.38A).³ Data was corrected for absorption effects using the empirical methods as implemented in SADABS (version 2016/2).⁴ The structure was solved by SHELXT (version 2018/2)⁵ and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures using the SHELXL program (version 2018/3)⁶ through the OLEX2⁷ graphical interface. All non-hydrogen atoms, including those in disordered parts, were refined anisotropically. All H-atoms were included at calculated positions and refined as riders, with $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2 U_{eq}(C)$ and $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5 U_{eq}(C)$ for methyl groups. Further crystal and data collection details are listed in Table S1.

Chemical formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₃ NO
CCDC number	2440557
M _r	329.42
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P21/c
Temperature (K)	100(2)
a, b, c (Å)	8.6833 (10), 7.9494 (9), 25.996 (3)
6 (°)	99.594 (2)
V (Å ³)	1769.3 (4)
Ζ	4
Radiation type	Μο Κα
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.08
Crystal size (mm)	0.29 × 0.19 × 0.12
Diffractometer	Bruker D8 Venture PHOTON 100 CMOS
Absorption correction	Multi-scan
	SADABS2016/2 (Bruker, 2016/2) was used for
	absorption correction. wR2(int) was 0.0685
	before and 0.0616 after correction. The Ratio
	of minimum to maximum transmission is
	0.9411. The $\lambda/2$ correction factor is not
	present.
T _{min} , T _{max}	0.644, 0.684
No. of measured, independent and	68955, 6731, 5052
observed $[l > 2\sigma(l)]$ reflections	
R _{int}	0.066
$(\sin \vartheta/\lambda)_{\max}$ (Å ⁻¹)	0.770
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.060, 0.147, 1.06
No. of reflections	6731
No. of parameters	230
H-atom treatment	H-atom parameters constrained
Δ > _{max} , Δ > _{min} (e Å ⁻³)	0.42, -0.37

Table S1. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement Parameters for A-II.



Figure S1. Solid-state structure of **A-II** drawn with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are represented by spheres of arbitrary radius. Only carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms are labeled.

Crystallographic data for compound (A-II) has been deposited at the CCDC under 2440557. These data can be obtained free of charge via <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif</u>, by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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