

Supporting Information

ⁿBu₄NBr-Catalyzed Esterification of Methoxyarenes with Acyl Bromide

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1. General Information

Unless stated otherwise, all reactions were conducted under N₂ atmosphere. All solvents were received from commercial sources without further purification. Melting points were measured on X-4B microscope melting point apparatus and uncorrected. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm). 200–300 mesh silica gel was used for column chromatography separation. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz (¹H NMR), 100 MHz (¹³C NMR), 376 MHz (¹⁹F NMR). Proton and carbon chemical shifts are reported relative to the solvent used as an internal reference (CDCl₃; δ_{H} = 7.26 ppm; δ_{C} = 77.16 ppm). All coupling constants (*J* values) were reported in Hertz (Hz). Multiplicities are reported as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), triplet (t), triplet of doublets (td), quartet (q), and multiplet (m). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF LC/MS with Electron Spray Ionization (ESI) resource. Optical rotations were determined by a Rudolph Autopol VI polarimeter. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected on Rigaku Saturn70 diffractometer.

2. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Effect of substrates (1a/2) loading in the reaction of 1a and 2a

entry	1a (x mmol)	2a (y mmol)	yield (%) ^b
1	1	1	72
2	1	1.2	93
3	1	1.5	93

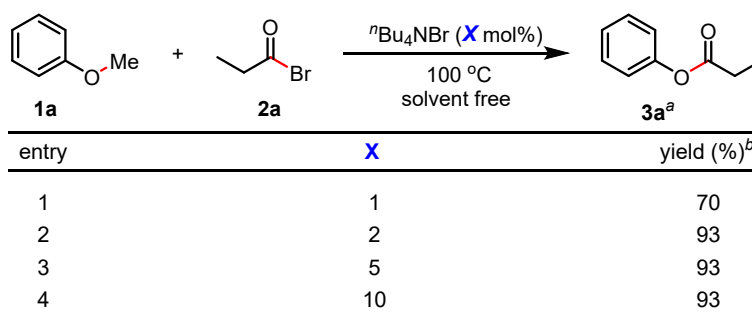
^aReaction conditions: N₂, 100 °C, 10 h. ^bIsolated yield.

Table S2. Effect of reaction temperature in the reaction

entry	<i>T</i> (°C)	yield (%) ^b
1	80	69
2	90	81
3	100	93
4	110	93

^aReaction conditions: N₂, 100 °C, 10 h. ^bIsolated yield.

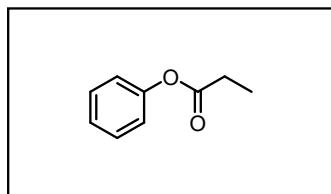
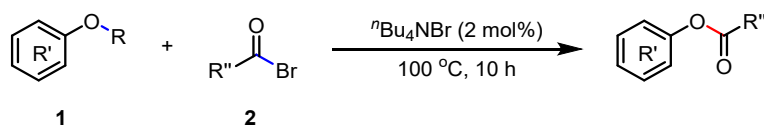
Table S3. Catalyst Loading Effects



^aReaction conditions: N₂, 100 °C, 10 h. ^bIsolated yield.

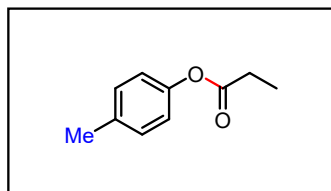
3. General Procedure for the Preparation of 3/4

To a 15 mL oven dried tube in glove box were added ⁿBu₄NBr (6.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 2 mol%), substrate **1** (1 mmol) and substrate **2** (1.2 mmol). The tube was capped, taken outside the glove box, and stirred at 100 °C for 10 h. Then the mixture was cooled to r.t., quenched with aq. NaHCO₃ solution (sat.). The aqueous phase was then extracted with DCM (3 × 5 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The filtration was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford the crude product, which was further purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexanes).



Phenyl propionate (**3a**) ^[1]

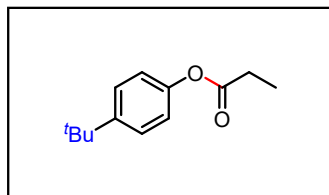
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3a** (oil, 139.5 mg, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 150.9, 129.4, 125.8, 121.6, 27.8, 9.1.



p-Tolyl propionate (**3b**) ^[2]

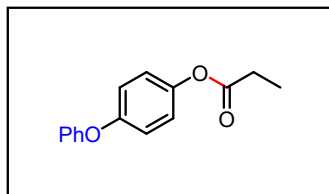
Reaction of **1b** (122 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3b** (oil, 137.8 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* =

8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.1, 148.6, 135.2, 129.9, 121.2, 27.7, 20.8, 9.1.



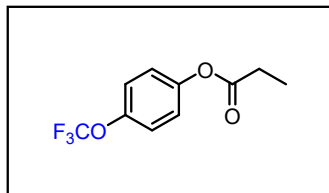
4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl propionate (**3c**) ^[3]

Reaction of **1c** (164.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3c** (oil, 185.5 mg, 90% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.52 (q, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.9, 148.4, 148.3, 126.2, 120.8, 34.3, 31.3, 27.6, 9.0.



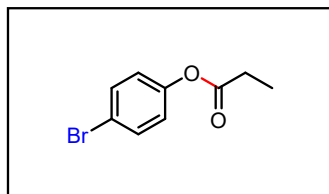
4-Phenoxyphenyl propionate (**3d**) ^[4]

Reaction of **1d** (200.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3o** (white solid, 210.6 mg, 87% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 6.95 (m, 6H), 2.63 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.2, 157.3, 154.7, 146.3, 129.9, 123.4, 122.8, 119.7, 118.9, 27.8, 9.2.



4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl propionate (**3e**)

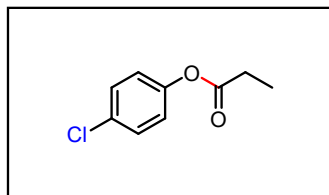
Reaction of **1e** (192 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3e** (oil, 142.8 mg, 61% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 149.2, 146.5, 123.0, 122.1, 118.0 (q, $J = 255$ Hz), 27.6, 8.9. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -58.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_3\text{O}_3$ 235.0577; Found 235.0560.



4-Bromophenyl propionate (**3f**)

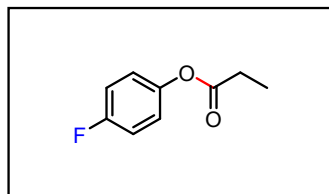
Reaction of **1f** (186 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3f** (oil, 196.1 mg, 86% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl_3) δ 172.6, 149.8, 132.4, 123.4, 123.4, 118.8, 27.7, 9.0. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{BrO}_2$ 228.9859; Found 228.9861.



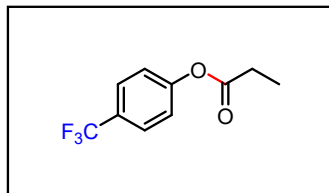
4-Chlorophenyl propionate (**3g**)^[5]

Reaction of **1g** (142 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3g** (oil, 161.9 mg, 88% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 149.3, 131.1, 129.5, 123.0, 27.7, 9.0.



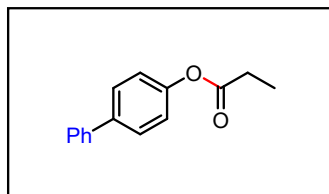
4-Fluorophenyl propionate (**3h**)^[6]

Reaction of **1h** (126.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3f** (oil, 137.8 mg, 82% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.01 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 2.62 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 160.1 (q, J = 242.2 Hz), 146.6 (q, J = 2.8 Hz), 122.9 (q, J = 8.4 Hz), 115.9 (q, J = 23.3 Hz), 27.5, 8.9. **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -117.4.



4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl propionate (**3i**)

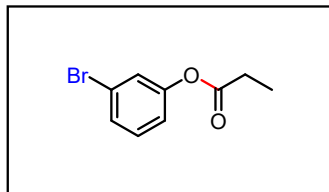
Reaction of **1i** (176 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3h** (oil, 115.6 mg, 53% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 153.4 (q, J = 1.1 Hz), 128.0 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 126.8 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.0 (q, J = 270.2 Hz), 122.2, 27.7, 8.8. **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.37. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ 219.0628; Found 219.0630.



[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl propionate (**3j**)

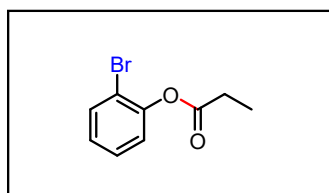
Reaction of **1j** (184.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3e** (white solid, 210 mg, 93% yield). m.p. 91–92 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 2.62

(q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.2, 150.3, 140.5, 139.0, 128.9, 128.3, 127.4, 127.2, 122.0, 27.9, 9.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2$ 227.1067; Found 227.1068.



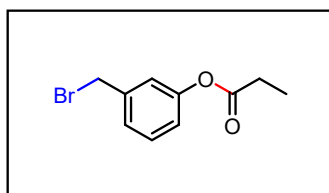
3-Bromophenyl propionate (**3k**) ^[7]

Reaction of **1k** (186 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3k** (oil, 196.1 mg, 86% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.22 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.56 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 151.3, 130.5, 128.9, 125.1, 122.4, 120.5, 27.7, 9.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{BrO}_2$ 228.9859; Found 228.9861.



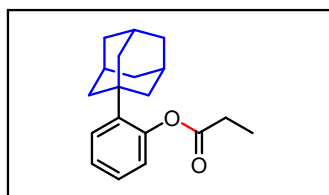
2-Bromophenyl propionate (**3l**)

Reaction of **1l** (186 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3l** (oil, 191.5 mg, 84% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 2.64 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.0, 148.3, 133.3, 128.5, 127.3, 123.8, 116.3, 27.6, 9.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{BrO}_2$ 228.9859; Found 228.9861.



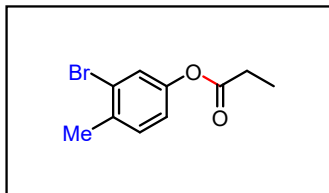
3-(Bromomethyl)phenyl propionate (**3m**)

Reaction of **1m** (200 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3m** (oil, 200.8 mg, 83% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 2.51 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.4, 150.6, 139.0, 129.5, 126.1, 121.4, 32.5, 27.4, 8.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrO}_2$ 243.0016; Found 243.0016.



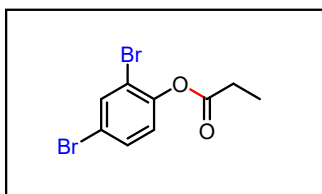
2-((3r,5r,7r)-Adamantan-1-yl)phenyl propionate (**3n**)

Reaction of **1n** (242.2 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3n** (white solid, 252.9 mg, 89% yield). m.p. 93–94 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.44 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.12 – 2.05 (m, 3H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 6H), 1.75 (q, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 6H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.8, 148.6, 143.5, 130.7, 129.7, 126.0, 119.3, 41.0, 37.1, 36.9, 28.9, 28.5, 9.1. **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₉H₂₅O₂ 285.1850; Found 285.1848.



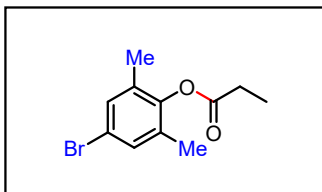
3-Bromo-4-methylphenyl propionate (**3o**)

Reaction of **1o** (200 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3o** (oil, 193.6 mg, 80% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.6, 148.9, 135.2, 130.9, 125.4, 124.4, 120.5, 27.6, 22.2, 9.0. **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂BrO₂ 243.0016; Found 243.0014.



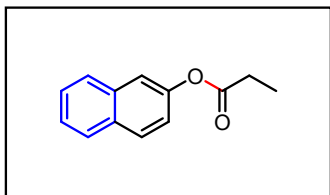
2,4-Dibromophenyl propionate (**3p**)

Reaction of **1p** (265.9 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3p** (oil, 258.6 mg, 84% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5, 147.5, 135.5, 131.4, 125.0, 119.2, 117.2, 27.4, 9.0. **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₉H₉Br₂O₂ 308.8944; Found 308.8945.



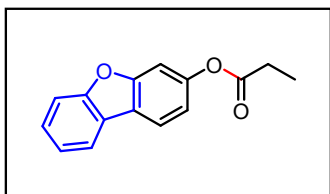
4-Bromo-2,6-dimethylphenyl propionate (**3q**)

Reaction of **1q** (214 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3q** (oil, 212.5 mg, 83% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (s, 2H), 2.62 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.0, 147.4, 132.5, 131.3, 118.7, 27.4, 16.2, 9.4. **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄BrO₂ 257.0172; Found 257.0167.



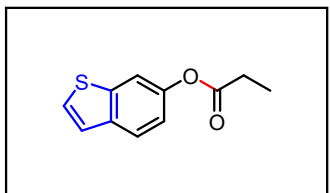
Naphthalen-2-yl propionate (**3r**) ^[8]

Reaction of **1r** (158.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3r** (white solid, 182 mg, 91% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 – 7.76 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 148.5, 133.9, 131.5, 129.45, 127.8, 127.7, 126.6, 125.7, 121.3, 118.6, 27.9, 9.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₃O₂ 201.0911; Found 201.0912.



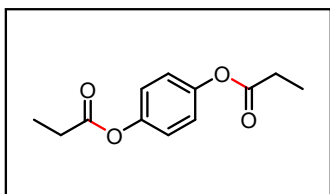
Dibenzob[b,d]furan-3-yl propionate (**3s**)

Reaction of **1s** (198 mg, 0.2 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3s** (white solid, 213.7 mg, 89% yield). m.p. 82–83 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 8.6, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 157.0, 153.6, 146.3, 127.6, 125.0, 124.0, 122.8, 120.9, 120.7, 113.6, 112.1, 111.8, 27.8, 9.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₃O₃ 241.0860; Found 241.0861.



Benzo[b]thiophen-6-yl propionate (**3t**)

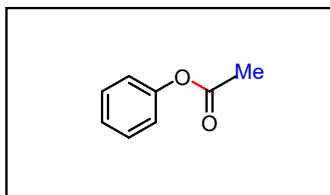
Reaction of **1t** (164 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **3t** (white solid, 164.8 mg, 80% yield). m.p. 70–71 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.4, 148.2, 140.4, 137.1, 128.2, 123.8, 123.2, 118.8, 116.0, 27.9, 9.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₁O₂S 207.0475; Found 207.0478.



1,4-Phenylene dipropionate (**3u**)

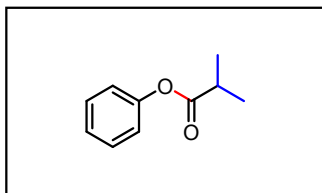
Reaction of **1u** (138.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (326.4 mg, 2.4 mmol), product **3u** (white

solid, 195.4 mg, 88% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (s, 4H), 2.56 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 148.1, 122.4, 27.7, 9.1. **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₅O₄ 223.0965; Found 223.0965.



Phenyl acetate (4a) ^[9]

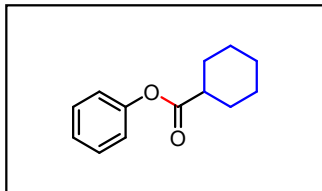
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2b** (146.3 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4a** (oil, 129.2 mg, 95% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 150.8, 129.6, 129.5, 125.9, 121.7, 21.2.



Phenyl isobutyrate (4b) ^[10]

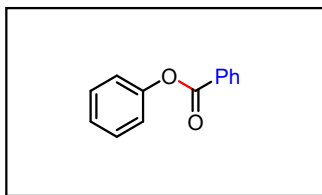
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2c** (180 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4b** (oil, 151.1 mg, 92% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 2.83 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.7, 151.0, 129.5, 125.8, 121.6, 34.3, 19.1.



Phenyl cyclohexanecarboxylate (4c) ^[11]

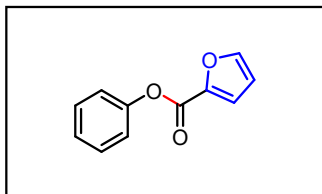
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2d** (228 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4c** (oil, 181.7 mg, 92% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 – 2.65 (m, 1H), 2.23 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 2.01 – 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.88 – 1.72 (m, 3H), 1.56 – 1.39 (m, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.4, 150.9, 129.3, 125.5, 121.5, 43.1, 28.9, 25.7, 25.3.



Phenyl benzoate (4d) ^[11]

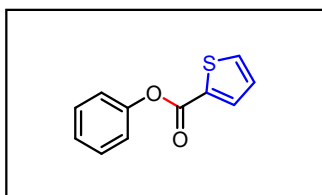
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2e** (220.7 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4d** (white solid, 178.2 mg, 90% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.59

(m, 1H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.14 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.3, 151.1, 133.7, 130.3, 129.7, 129.6, 128.7, 126.0, 121.9.



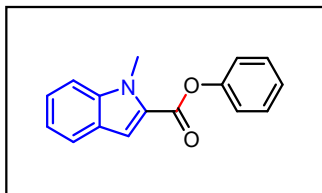
Phenyl furan-2-carboxylate (4e) ^[11]

Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2f** (208.7 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4e** (white solid, 146.6 mg, 78% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 6.53 – 6.52 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.9, 150.1, 147.2, 143.9, 129.5, 126.0, 121.6, 119.4, 112.2.



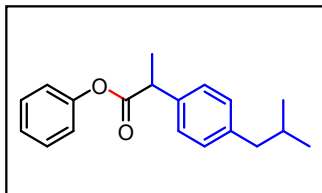
Phenyl thiophene-2-carboxylate (4f) ^[11]

Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2g** (227.9 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4f** (white solid, 163.2 mg, 80% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 160.4, 150.4, 134.5, 133.5, 132.6, 129.3, 127.9, 125.8, 121.5.



Phenyl 1-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (4g) ^[12]

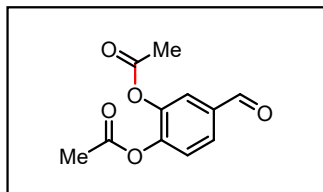
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2h** (284.4 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4g** (white solid, 165.7 mg, 66% yield). m.p. 101–102 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.08 (m, 4H), 4.03 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.8, 150.7, 140.3, 129.7, 126.9, 126.1, 125.7, 123.0, 122.0, 121.0, 111.8, 110.5, 31.8.



Phenyl 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propanoate (4h)

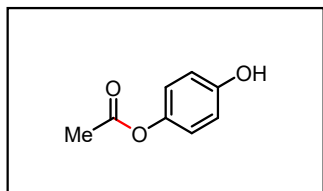
Reaction of **1a** (108 mg, 1 mmol) and **2i** (321.7mg, 1.2 mmol), product **4h** (oil, 214.4 mg, 76% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.18 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.92 – 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.59 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 173.3, 151.0, 140.9, 137.4, 129.6, 129.4, 127.4, 125.8, 121.5, 45.4, 30.3, 22.5, 22.5, 18.7. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₃O₂ 283.1693; Found 283.1693.



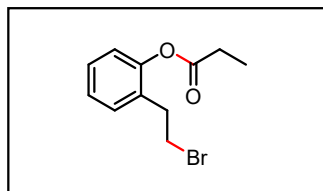
4-formyl-1,2-phenylene diacetate (7) ^[13]

Reaction of Vanillin acetate (194 mg, 1 mmol) and Acetyl bromide (146.3 mg, 1.2 mmol), product 7 (oil, 110 mg, 50% yield). **¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 190.2, 168.0, 167.8, 147.1, 142.9, 134.8, 128.3, 124.4, 124.3, 20.7, 20.6.



4-hydroxyphenyl acetate (8) ^[13]

Reaction of monobenzene (200 mg, 1 mmol) and Acetyl bromide (146.3 mg, 1.2 mmol), product 7 (solid, 110 mg, 70% yield). **¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 6.88 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 171.0, 153.8, 143.9, 122.4, 116.3, 116.2, 21.2.



2-(2-Bromoethyl)phenyl propionate (9)

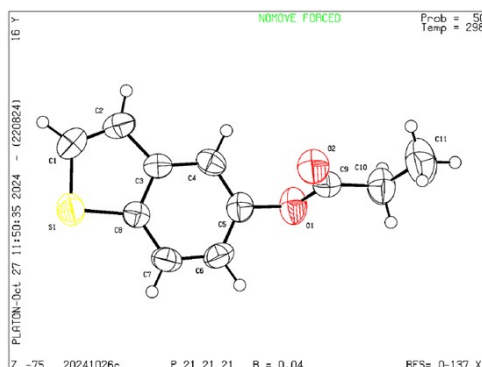
Reaction of **6** (121.1 mg, 1 mmol) and **2a** (163.2 mg, 1.2 mmol), product **7** (oil, 179.2 mg, 70% yield). **¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.60 – 3.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (q, J = 7.6, 2H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.6, Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 172.6, 149.0, 130.6, 130.5, 128.1, 126.0, 122.5, 34.0, 31.0, 27.6, 9.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄BrO₂ 257.0172; Found 257.0170.

4. Crystal Structure Information of 3t

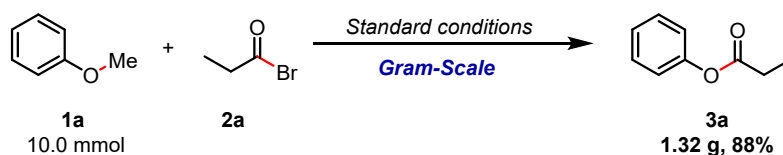
CCDC 2394783, Compound Name: Benzo[*b*]thiophen-6-yl propionate (**3t**), Formula: C₁₁H₁₀O₂S

General procedure for crystal culture of 3t: To a test tube (15 mL) with added 3t (100 mg), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) was added slowly to make it dissolve completely. After

it dissolved, petroleum ether (10.0 mL) was added slowly. Then, the test tube was sealed with a rubber stopper, and connected to air with a syringe needle. Finally, the tube was put in a dry and ventilated place to make the organic solvent to volatilize slowly. After a few days, the crystal of **3y** was obtained. The X-ray crystal structure of **3t** was shown below.

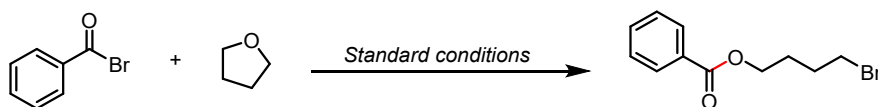


5. Gram-Scale Reaction



To a 35 mL oven dried tube in glove box were added $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}$ (64 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 mol%), anisole **1** (10 mmol) and propionyl bromide **2** (12 mmol). The tube was capped, taken outside the glove box, and stirred at 100 °C for 10 h. Then the mixture was cooled to r.t., quenched with aq. NaHCO_3 solution (sat.). The aqueous phase was then extracted with DCM (3×5 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The filtration was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford the crude product, which was further purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexanes = 100:1, V/V) to give product **3a** (1.32 g 88%).

6. Reaction of dialkyl ethers



To a 35 mL oven dried tube in glove box were added $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}$ (64 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 mol%), tetrahydrofuran (1 mmol) and benzoyl bromide **2** (1.2 mmol). The tube was capped, taken outside the glove box, and stirred at 100 °C for 10 h. Then the mixture was cooled to r.t., quenched with aq. NaHCO_3 solution (sat.). The aqueous phase was then extracted with DCM (3×5 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The filtration was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford the crude

product, which was further purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexanes = 50:1, V/V) to give product **3a** (204.8 mg 80%).¹⁴

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.94 – 1.86 (m, 2H), 1.85 – 1.77 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 132.9, 130.1, 129.5, 128.3, 63.9, 33.1, 29.3, 27.3.

7. References

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8. NMR Spectra

