Supporting Information

K₂CO₃ Promoted Direct Sulfenylation of Indoles: A Facile

Approach of 3-Sulfenylindoles

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General experimental procedures

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were carried out under air, all reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used without any further purification. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz using TMS as internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz using TMS as internal standard. The multiplicities are reported as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m). Coupling constants are reported in Hertz (Hz). Mass spectroscopy data were collected on HRMS-EI and HRMS-ESI instrument.

General procedure for synthesis of 3-sulfenylindoles (3)

A 25 mL flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with substituted indoles (1, 0.5 mmol), disulfides (2, 0.5 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.25 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL). The mixture was allowed to stir under open atmosphere at 100 °C for 9 h. Saturated aqueous NaCl (20 mL), and EtOAc (20 mL) were added to the cooled reaction mixture successively. The organic phase was separated, and the aqueous phase was further extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate (10:1) as eluent to provide the desired products.

Characterization data of compounds 3a-3v





3-(Phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3a).¹** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.76 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.16-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.03-7.10 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 139.3, 136.8, 132.4, 128.8, 128.7, 125.3, 124.7, 122.1, 120.1, 118.3, 112.4, 99.3.



4-Methyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3b) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (20:1). Brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.08-7.16 (m, 4H), 6.98-7.04 (m, 3H), 6.86 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.62 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 141.7, 137.1, 132.1, 129.0, 127.1, 125.3, 124.7, 123.2, 122.6, 109.8, 102.1, 18.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NS (M) ⁺ 239.0769; Found, 239.0769.



3c

5-methyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3c).⁴** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.64 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 4H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 139.5, 135.1, 132.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.8, 125.1, 124.6, 123.8, 117.8, 112.1, 98.5, 21.2.





6-Methyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3d).⁵** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.59 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, J = 8.0

Hz), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 139.4, 137.2, 131.7, 131.4, 128.7, 126.6, 125.2, 124.6, 121.9, 118.1, 112.1, 99.1, 21.3.





7-Methyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3e).⁶** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). Brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.06-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.00-7.05 (m, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 139.5, 136.2, 130.7, 128.9, 128.8, 126.0, 124.9, 123.7, 121.2, 121.1, 117.4, 103.0, 16.6.



5-Methoxy-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3f).¹** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (5:1). Brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.07-7.16 (m, 4H), 7.00-7.04 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 3.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.1, 139.5, 131.7, 131.5, 130.0, 128.9, 125.8, 124.9, 113.6, 112.7, 101.9, 100.9, 55.9.



5-Nitro-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3g) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (5:1). Yellow solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.17-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 141.5, 140.0, 138.0, 136.4, 129.0, 128.2, 125.7, 125.2, 117.5, 114.8, 113.1, 102.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₂O₂S (M)⁺ 270.0463; Found, 270.0466.



3-(Phenylthio)-1*H***-indole-5-carbonitrile (3h).³** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (5:1). Yellow solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 12.29 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.19 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.07 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 138.6, 138.2, 135.2, 128.9, 128.6, 125.8, 125.2, 125.0, 123.6, 120.2, 113.8, 102.5, 101.2.



5-Fluoro-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3i) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid.¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.88 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.56 (dt, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz, 4.4 Hz), 7.17-7.20 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.13 (d, 1H, J = 9.2 Hz), 7.04-7.07 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 157.7 ($J_{CF} = 233.4$ Hz), 138.8, 134.4, 133.3, 129.4 ($J_{CF} = 9.8$ Hz), 128.8, 125.4, 124.9, 112.1 ($J_{CF} = 310.6$ Hz), 112.0 ($J_{CF} = 326.9$ Hz), 103.0 ($J_{CF} = 24.5$ Hz), 99.6 ($J_{CF} = 4.3$ Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀NOF (M)⁺ 243.0518; Found, 243.0516.



5-Chloro-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3j).⁴** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.95 (s, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.03-7.08 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 138.7, 135.2, 134.2, 130.0, 128.9, 125.4, 125.0, 124.9, 122.2, 117.4, 114.1, 99.3.





5-Bromo-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3k).¹** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.97 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.17-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 138.7, 135.5, 134.1, 130.6, 128.9, 125.4, 124.9, 124.8, 120.4, 114.5, 113.0, 99.2.



2-Methyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3l).¹** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). Brown solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.71 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.40 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.12-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.00-7.06 (m, 4H), 2.50 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 142.1, 139.2, 135.7, 129.7, 128.8, 125.0, 124.5, 121.4, 119.9, 117.7, 111.3, 96.4, 11.7.



3m

Ethyl 3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole-2-carboxylate** (**3m**).² Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.33 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.06-7.17 (m, 6H), 4.40 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.29 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 161.7, 138.1, 136.0, 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.2, 126.1, 125.3, 121.7, 121.5, 112.3, 110.4, 61.6, 14.2.





2-Phenyl-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3n).² Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). yellow oil.¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) \delta 8.74 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.07-7.10 (m, 5H), 6.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) \delta 142.3, 139.5, 136.1, 131.5, 131.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 128.4, 125.7, 124.8, 123.4, 121.2, 120.0, 111.5, 99.1.**



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2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (30) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 12.36 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.99 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.92 (d, 2H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.13-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.05 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 142.0, 139.1, 136.5, 132.7, 132.6, 130.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4, 126.7, 126.7, 125.9, 125.2, 124.8, 122.9, 120.6, 118.8, 112.1, 97.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₂₄H₁₇NS (M)⁺ 351.1082; Found, 351.1086.



3р

2-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(phenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3p) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). Brown solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 12.26 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.16-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.63 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 145.7, 143.1, 138.0, 136.1, 133.0, 130.4, 129.0, 125.3, 124.9, 122.9, 120.7, 118.4, 112.3, 112.2, 109.7, 95.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₈H₁₃NOS (M) ⁺ 291.0718; Found, 291.0714.



3-(Phenylthio)-1*H***-pyrrolo[2,3-***b***]pyridine (3q).⁷ Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (2:1). White solid.¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) \delta 12.35 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s,**

1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.15-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.04 (d, 3H, J = 8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 148.9, 143.6, 138.6, 133.2, 128.9, 126.7, 125.5, 125.0, 121.0, 116.6, 98.7.



3-(*p*-tolylthio)-1*H*-indole (3r).¹ Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.71 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.45 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.19 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.07 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.98 (s, 4H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 136.7, 135.5, 134.1, 132.1, 129.4, 128.7, 125.8, 122.1, 120.0, 118.4, 112.3, 100.1, 20.4.



3-(4-Chlorophenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3s).**¹ Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.18-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.08 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.03 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 138.4, 136.8, 132.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 126.8, 122.2, 120.2, 118.2, 112.4, 98.8.



3-(3-Fluorophenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3t).⁸** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid.¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.85 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, 2H, J = 45.6 Hz), 6.78-7.22 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 162.5 ($J_{CF} = 244.6$ Hz), 142.4 ($J_{CF} = 6.2$ Hz), 136.8, 132.8, 130.5 ($J_{CF} = 9.1$ Hz), 128.5, 122.3, 121.1, 120.3, 118.2, 112.5, 111.6 ($J_{CF} = 36.6$ Hz), 111.5 ($J_{CF} = 7.1$ Hz), 98.3.



3u

3-(3,5-Dichlorophenylthio)-1*H***-indole (3u) [New compound].** Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.90 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.24 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 1.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 144.3, 136.8, 134.5, 133.3, 128.1, 124.3, 123.0, 122.4, 120.5, 118.0, 112.6, 97.0. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₉NSCl₂ (M) ⁺ 292.9833; Found, m/z (%) = 292.9834 ([M]⁺, 100), 294.9809 ([M+2]⁺, 70.44).





N-(2-(1*H*-indol-3-ylthio)phenyl)benzamide (3v) [New compound]. Eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (5:1). White solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz) δ 11.70 (s, 1H), 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.41 (t, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.19 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.13 (t, 1H,

J = 7.2 Hz), 7.02-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d6, 100 MHz) δ 165.6, 136.8, 136.6, 134.3, 132.4, 131.7, 128.7, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 126.7, 126.5, 125.1, 122.1, 120.0, 118.4, 112.3, 99.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₂OS (M) ⁺ 344.0983; Found, 344.0988.

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¹³C NMR of product 3b



¹³C NMR of product 3c



¹³C NMR of product 3d



¹³C NMR of product 3e



¹³C NMR of product 3f



¹³C NMR of product 3g



¹³C NMR of product 3h



¹³C NMR of product 3i



¹³C NMR of product 3j



¹³C NMR of product 3k



¹³C NMR of product 3l





7,654 7,642 7,642 7,642 7,642 7,595 7,595 7,301 7,595 7,301 7,175 7,191 7,175 7,102 7,102 7,102 7,102 7,102 7,102 7,102 7,102 6,673 6,673











¹³C NMR of product 3p



¹³C NMR of product 3q



¹³C NMR of product 3r



¹³C NMR of product 3s



¹H NMR of product 3u



¹H NMR of product 3v



¹³C NMR of product 3v