

Supporting Information

Selective demethylation and debenzylation of aryl ethers by magnesium iodide under solvent-free conditions and its application to the total synthesis of natural products

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1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanone (2b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.25 (s, 2H, 2,6-H), 5.93 (s, 1H, OH), 3.96 (s, 6H, CH₃O), 2.57 (s, 3H, CH₃CO); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 195 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.¹

4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxybenzoic acid (2c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.39 (s, 2H, 2,6-H), 3.96 (s, 6H, CH₃O); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 197 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.²

ethyl 4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxybenzoate (2d)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.33 (s, 2H, 2,6-H), 5.88 (s, 1H, OH), 3.95 (s, 6H, CH₃O), 3.36 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₂), 1.40 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 166.4 (CO), 146.6 (C-3/C-5), 139.2 (C-4), 121.5 (C-1), 106.7 (C-2/C-6), 61.0 (CH₂CH₃), 56.5 (C-3/C-5 OCH₃), 14.4 (CH₂CH₃); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 225 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.³

2,6-dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl acetate (2f')

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 6.41 (s, 2H, 3,5-H), 3.78 (s, 6H, CH₃O), 2.32 (s, 3H, 4-CH₃), 2.31 (s, 3H, CH₃CO); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 223 [M+Na⁺]; data consistent with the literature.⁴

2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (4a)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 11.01 (s, 1H, OH), 9.85 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.46-7.54 (m, 2H, 4,6-H), 6.94-7.01 (m, 2H, 3,5-H); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 121 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.⁵

3-hydroxybenzaldehyde (4b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 9.96 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.40-7.47 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.36 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (m, 1H, 4-H), 5.55 (s, 1H, OH); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 243 [2M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.⁶

4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (4c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 9.87 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.81 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2,6-H), 6.96 (m, 2H, 3,5-H), 5.83 (s, 1H, OH), 5.55 (s, 1H, OH); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 243 [2M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.⁷

1-(2-hydroxy-3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanone (4d)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 12.56 (s, 1H, OH), 7.50 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 6-H), 6.50 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 5-H), 3.94 (s, 3H, 4-CH₃O), 3.89 (s, 3H, 3-CH₃O), 2.58 (s, 3H, CH₃CO); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 197 [M+H⁺]; data consistent with the literature.⁸

2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde (4e)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 11.87 (s, 1H, OH), 9.92 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.18 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 6-H), 7.12 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 4-H), 6.97 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 5-H), 3.92 (s, 3H, CH₃O); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 151 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.⁹

4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde (4f)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 9.83 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.41-7.44 (m, 2H, 2,6-H), 7.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 5-H), 6.21 (s, 1H, OH), 3.97 (s, 3H, CH₃O); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 151 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.¹⁰

2-hydroxybenzoic acid (4h)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 10.35 (s, 1H, OH), 7.94 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 6-H), 7.54 (m, 1H, 4-H), 7.02 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 6.95 (m, 1H, 5-H); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 139.0 [M+H⁺], 136.8 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.¹¹

3-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (6a)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 9.84 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.43-7.44 (m, 2H, 2,6-H), 6.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 5-H), 5.79 (s, 1H, OH), 3.99 (s, 3H, CH₃O); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 151 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.¹²

4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid (6c)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO, TMS): δ, 7.42 (m, 2H, 2,6-H), 6.83 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 5-H), 3.79 (s, 3H,

CH₃O); MS (ESI, *m/z*): 167 [M-H⁻]; data consistent with the literature.¹³

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