Supporting Information for

Oxidative Cross-Esterification of Dithiolanes with Alcohols through a Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling (CDC) / Deprotection Sequence

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1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All the solvents and alcohols were treated according to general methods, (S)-tert-butyl 2-(hydroxymethyl) pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate was synthesized and CuI was activated according to the known methods. Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel or 200-300 mesh neutral Al₂O₃. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400/600 (400/600 MHz) spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm from the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃: 7.26 ppm). Datas are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = single, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400/600 (100/150MHz) with complete proton decoupling spectrophotometers (CDCl₃: 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were measured on a Finnigan Trace MS spectrometer (EI) or a Bruker Daltonics Inc. ApexII FT-ICR MS spectrometer (EI). Infrared spectra were measured on Nicolet Avatar 360. UV were measured on Scinco S-3100. Enantiomeric ratios were determined by HPLC on Agilent 1100 series with chiralpak column with hexane and i-PrOH as eluants. Optical rotations were measured with JASCO P-1020 polarimeter.

2 Preparation of Substrates

Substrates 1 were prepared according to the known procedures.¹



3. General Procedure and Spectral Data of Products

3.1 General Procedure



To a solution of substrates **1** (0.5 mmol) in 5 mL dried CHCl₃, C₂H₅OH (30 μ L, 0.5 mmol) and 10 mol% of CuI (9.52 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added (a 25 mL flask equipped with rubber stopper). The mixture was stirred for 10 min at rt, then DDQ (227 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added into the reaction system. After an hour, H₂O (9 μ L, 0.5 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at rt for 12-24 hours. Upon the completion of reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel or neutral aluminium oxide (silica/Al₂O₃: 200~300; eluant: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to provide pure products **3**.

3.2 Spectral Data of Products (all compounds were known except compounds 4e and 5a)

methyl 4-methoxybenzoate (2)²



Yield: 92%, MeOH (20.5 µL), white solid. ¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.75, 163.21, 131.48, 122.47, 113.49, 55.30, 51.77. **MS**: m/z = 166.09. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm.

ethyl 4-methoxybenzoate (3a)²

Yield: 90% (table 2, entry 1), EtOH (30 μ L) and 87% (table 2, entry 13), EtOH (585 μ L), white solid. ¹H NMR (600

MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.29, 163.11, 131.42, 122.77, 113.41, 60.55, 55.30, 14.30. MS: m/z = 180, HRMS (EI) calculated for C₁₀H₁₂O₃ [M]⁺: 180.0786, found 180.0789.

ethyl 3-methoxybenzoate (3b)³

Yield: 74%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, J =7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ (ppm) 166.37, 159.38, 131.65, 129.22, 121.79, 119.17, 113.84, 60.94, 55.28, 14.22. **MS**: m/z = 180.16. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 252$ nm, 299 nm.

ethyl 3,4-dimethoxybenzoate (3c)⁴

Yield: 89%, EtOH (30 μL), colorless oil, purified by neutral H_3CO H_3CO H_3CO H_3CO H_3CO H_3CO H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.59 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

109.88, 60.58, 55.72, 14.18. **MS**: m/z = 210.10. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm, 295 nm.

ethyl 4-methylbenzoate (3d)⁵

Yield: 71%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, J

= 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.59, 143.30, 129.44, 128.91, 127.61, 60.65, 21.54, 14.25. MS: m/z = 164.16. UV: $\lambda_{max} = 256$ nm.

ethyl 4-bromobenzoate (3e)²

Vield: 81%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz,CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.0–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H),4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.74, 131.52, 130.96, 129.19, 127.79, 61.15, 14.20. **MS**: m/z = 229.99. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm. ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate (3f)⁶



Yield: 80%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.21–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.29 (m, 2H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.64, 139.13, 130.85, 128.83, 128.56, 61.13, 14.23. **MS**: m/z = 184.01. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 263$ nm.

ethyl 4-nitrobenzoate (3g)²



Yield: 92%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.45–8.26 (m, 2H), 8.26–8.12 (m, 2H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 164.61, 150.36, 135.76, 130.59, 123.42, 61.90, 14.17. **MS**: m/z = 195.15. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 265$ nm, 304 nm.

ethyl 3-nitrobenzoate (3h)⁵



Yield: 84%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.87 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.54–8.25 (m, 2H), 7.67 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 164.42, 148.19, 135.24, 132.17,

129.54, 127.25, 124.50, 61.91, 14.24. **MS**: m/z = 195.11. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 265$ nm, 296 nm. **ethyl 4-cyanobenzoate (3i)**⁷



Yield: 87%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.15 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.1

3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 164.78, 134.11, 132.05, 129.91, 117.89, 116.09, 61.67, 14.10. **MS**: m/z = 175.17. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 263$ nm.

ethyl thiophene-2-carboxylate (3j)²

Yield: 62%, EtOH (30 µL), white solid. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) \land (ppm) 7.80 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.22–6.97 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 162.24, 134.00, 133.21, 132.14, 127.64, 61.11, 14.30. **MS**: m/z = 156.13. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm. ethyl 2-naphthoate (3k)⁸



Yield: 78%, EtOH (30 μL), colorless oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.06 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64–7.43

(m, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.69, 135.36, 132.38, 130.84, 129.24, 128.06, 127.99, 127.65, 127.60, 126.50, 125.15, 61.03, 14.33. MS: m/z = 200.10. UV: $\lambda_{max} = 265$ nm, 300 nm. **2-benzoylmethylidene-1,3-dithiolane (3l)**⁹



Yield: 65%, EtOH (145 μ L), pale yellow solid, purified by neutral Al₂O₃. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H),

7.37 (s, 1H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 185.87, 168.15, 138.05, 131.92, 128.38, 127.69, 108.13, 38.79, 35.31. v_{max}/cm^{-1} (KBr) 1609 (C=O), MS: m/z = 222.04.

Prop-2-ynyl p-methoxybenzoate (4a)²

Yield: 41%, propargyl alcohol (150 µL), colorless oil. ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.11–7.95 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.86 (m, 2H), 4.90 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H),

2.52 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.46, 163.58, 131.83, 121.65, 113.62, 77.92, 74.77, 55.40, 52.12. MS: m/z = 190.16. UV: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm.

2-hydroxyethyl 4-methoxybenzoate (4b)¹⁰



Yield: 76%, ethylene glycol (32 µL), pale yellow oil, purified by neutral Al₂O₃. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz,

2H), 4.51–4.34 (m, 2H), 3.94 (dd, J = 8.9, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.66 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.72, 163.40, 131.66, 122.05, 113.55, 66.35, 61.30, 55.37. **MS**: m/z = 196.16. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm.

isopropyl 4-methoxybenzoate (4c)²

Yield: 41%, isopropanol (39 µL), colorless oil. ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d,J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (dt, J = 12.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H),

1.36 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.80, 163.06, 131.41, 123.23, 113.38, 67.85, 55.32, 21.93. MS: m/z = 194.19. UV: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm. cyclohexyl 4-methoxybenzoate (4d)¹¹

Yield: 50%, cyclohexanol (100.2 mg), white solid. ${}^{1}H$ NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, J = 8.5 Hz,H₃CO2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.04–4.95 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s,

3H), 1.92 (s, 2H), 1.78 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 1.63–1.52 (m, 3H), 1.49–1.39 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.28 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.66, 163.04, 131.42, 123.33, 113.38, 72.56, 55.32, 31.61, 25.43, 23.62. MS: m/z = 234.13. UV: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm.

(S)-tert-butyl 2-(((4-methoxybenzoyl)oxy)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4e)

H₃CO

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{27}$ -62.4 (*c* 1.0, MeOH) for 100% *ee*, purified by neutral Al₂O₃. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm)

Yield: 76%, N-Boc-L-Prolinol (100.7 mg), colorless oil,

7.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.52–3.31 (m, 2H), 1.96 (m, 4H), 1.47 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 165.83, 163.18, 154.21, 131.38, 122.18, 113.38, 79.44, 79.08, 64.72, 64.51, 55.49, 55.15, 46.48, 46.25, 28.63, 28.22, 27.68, 23.62, 22.85; MS: m/z = 335, HRMS (EI) calculated for C₁₈H₂₅NO₅ [M]⁺: 335.1733, found 335.1737; The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, t_{major} = 6.98 min).



ak RetTime Type	Width	Area	Height	Area
# [min]	[min]	mAU *s	[mAU]	8
1 5.741 BB	0.1362	4760.72705	533.02612	48.1046
2 6.996 BB	0.1750	5135.89697	451.13449	51.8954

Peak #	RetTime [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	6.982	BB	0.1897	2.32823e4	1917.65588	100.0000

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4. Mechanism Study

4.1 Procedure and Spectral Data of Intermediate 5a



To a solution of substrate **1a** (106.2 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 5 mL dried CHCl₃, C₂H₅OH (145 μ L, 2.5 mmol) and 10 mol% of CuI (9.52 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 10 min at rt, then DDQ (136.2 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added into the reaction system. Upon the completion of reaction monitored by TLC (basic KMnO₄ and heating), the mixture was filtered through a plug of neutral aluminium oxide (DCM as eluant) as soon as quickly, solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified by flash chromatography on neutral aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃: 200~300; eluant: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to provide pure product **5a** in 77% yield.

2-ethoxy-2-PMP-1, 3-dithiolane (5a)

Yield: 77%, colorless oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.75–7.58 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.78 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.66 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.58–3.45 (m, 4H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.24, 133.64, 127.71, 113.20, 109.84, 60.85, 55.17, 40.75, 14.90. **MS**: m/z = 256, **HRMS** (EI) calculated for C₁₂H₁₆O₂S₂ [M]⁺: 256.0592, found 256.0595. **UV**: $\lambda_{max} = 264$ nm.

4.2 Procedure for Ester 3a from Intermediate 5a



To a solution of substrate **5a** (128.2 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 5 mL dried CHCl₃, 10 mol% of CuI (9.52 mg, 0.05 mmol) and DDQ (136.2 mg, 0.6 mmol) were added, then H₂O (9 μ L, 0.5 mmol) was added into the reaction system immediately, the reaction was stirred at rt for 12 hours. Upon the completion of reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (silica: 200~300; eluant: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to provide pure product **3a** in 92% yield.

4.3 H₂¹⁸O Labeling Experiment



To a solution of substrate **1a** (106.2 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 5 mL dried CHCl₃, C₂H₅OH (145 μ L, 2.5 mmol) and 10 mol% of CuI (9.52 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 10 min at rt, then DDQ (227 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added into the reaction system and 98% H₂¹⁸O (50 μ L, 2.5 mmol) was added immediately, the reaction was stirred at rt for 12 hours. Upon the completion of reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (silica: 200~300; eluant: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to provide the product ¹⁸O-**3a** in 87% yield. **MS**: m/z = 182, **HRMS** (EI) calculated for C₁₀H₁₂¹⁶O₂¹⁸O [M]⁺: 182.0829, found 182.0831.







5. Copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectrums













































































