

Selective Deuteration of Aromatic Compounds *via*

Deutero-decarboxylation of (Hetero)aromatic Carboxylic Acids

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General Information

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. Anhydrous DMSO and all other reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification, D₂O (99.9 % D) was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories Inc. and used without further treatment. Melting points were obtained using a hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Tensor 37 FTIR machine and quoted in cm⁻¹. Unless otherwise noted, ¹H NMR spectra, recorded at 400 MHz are referenced to the residual solvent peak at 7.26 ppm (CDCl₃). ²H NMR spectra, recorded at 61 MHz, are referenced using CDCl₃ as an internal reference (7.26 ppm in CDCl₃ or 8.32 ppm in d₆-DMSO). ¹³C NMR spectra, recorded at 101 MHz, are referenced to the residual solvent peak at 77.02 ppm (CDCl₃). Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in ppm. Impurity peaks observed at 1.43, 1.25 and 0.88 ppm in the ¹H NMR and 29.8 ppm in the ¹³C NMR are likely due to high order alkanes such as icosane. A superfluous peak observed at 4.73 ppm in the ²H NMR is an artefact due to the spectrometer and not a deuterium resonance signal. Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent GC-MS, comprising a 6890 GC and 5973 MS.

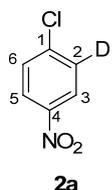
General procedure for the Ag-catalysed deutero-decarboxylation of *ortho*-substituted benzoic acids.

A mixture of benzoic acid (0.5 mmol), Ag₂CO₃ (14 mg, 0.05 mmol) and D₂O (452 μL, 25.0 mmol) in dry DMSO (2.5 mL) was stirred for 16 hours at 120 °C in a sealed vessel. After this time the reaction was partitioned with Et₂O (10 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The two layers were separated and the aqueous layer was re-extracted with Et₂O (2 × 10

mL). The organic extracts were combined and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL). The ethereal layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. No further purification was necessary.

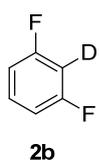
Exemplar spectra to indicate how the extent of deuteration was calculated are included on pages SI-8 and SI-17.

1-Chloro-4-nitro-6-deuterobenzene (**2a**)



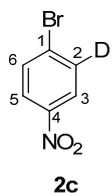
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 2-chloro-5-nitrobenzoic acid (0.102 g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2a** as a pale yellow solid (0.072 g, 91%, (93% deuteration)). m.p.: 81-83 °C; IR: 2928, 2860, 1573, 1519, 1342, 748; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17-8.20 (2H, m), 7.52 (1.067H, app d, *J* = 9.2 Hz); ²H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (1D, s); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.7 (C4), 141.4 (C1), 129.7 (C6), 129.4 (1:1:1 t, *J* = 27.2 Hz) (C2), 125.1 (C5/3), 125.0 (C3/5); MS (EI) *m/z* 158 (M⁺, 100).

1,5-Difluoro-6-deuterobenzene (**2b**)



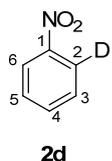
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure in a sealed vessel with 2,6-difluorobenzoic acid (0.016 g, 0.1 mmol) and *d*₆-DMSO (0.5 mL) to afford **2b** (96%, (95% deuteration)) as calculated by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as the internal standard. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.44 (1H, app quin, (*J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.11-7.17 (0.047H, m); 7.05 (2H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz). ²H NMR (61 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.23 (1D, s); MS (EI) *m/z* 115 (M⁺, 100).

1-Bromo-4-nitro-6-deuterobenzene (**2c**)



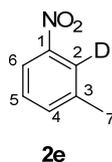
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 2-bromo-5-nitrobenzoic acid (0.123 g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2c** as a white solid (0.096 g, 94%, (90% deuteration)). m.p.: 124- 126 °C; IR: 3097, 2919, 2850, 1571, 1510, 1336, 739. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09-8.12 (2H, m), 7.69 (1.104H, app d, *J* = 9.2 Hz); ²H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (1D, s); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.2 (C4), 132.8 (C6), 132.5 (1:1:1 t, *J* = 17.4 Hz) (C2), 130.0 (C1), 125.2 (C5/3), 125.1 (C3/5); MS (EI) *m/z* 204 (M⁺, 100), 202 (M⁺, 100).

1-Nitro-2-deuterobenzene (**2d**)



The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 2-nitrobenzoic acid (0.084 g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2d** as a yellow oil (0.58 g, 93%, (98% deuteration)). IR: 3019, 2923, 2855, 1697, 1547, 1215, 750; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (1.025H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.8 Hz), 7.70 (1H, td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz), 7.56 (1H, m); ²H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (1D, s); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.3 (C1), 134.7 (C4), 129.4 (C5/3), 129.3 (C3/5), 123.6 (C6), 123.4 (1:1:1 t, *J* = 17.2 Hz) (C2); MS (EI) *m/z* 124 (M⁺, 100).

3-Nitro-2-deuterotoluene (**2e**)



The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 2-methyl-6-nitrobenzoic acid (0.091g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2e** as a pale yellow oil (0.057g, 82%, (97% deuteration)). IR: 2924, 2864, 1521, 1346, 1091, 930, 801; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (1.035H,

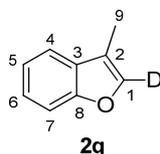
app d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.49 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.41 (1H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz); 2.47 (3H, s); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (1D, s); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.4 (C1), 139.8 (C3), 135.4 (C4), 129.2 (C5), 123.7 (1:1:1 t, $J = 25.6$ Hz) (C2), 120.8 (C6), 21.3 (C7); MS (EI) m/z 138 (M^+ , 100).

1-Methoxy-3-nitro-4-deuterobenzene (2f)



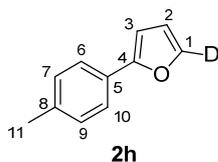
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 4-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoic acid (0.099g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2f** as a pale yellow solid (0.075 g, 97%, (95% deuteration)). m.p.: 35-37 °C; IR: 2936, 2845, 1523, 1347, 1235, 1036; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (0.050H, ddd, $J = 8.0, 2.0, 0.8$ Hz), 7.71 (1H, d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 7.42 (0.048H, t, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.41 (0.952H, d, 8.4 Hz), 7.21 (1H, dd, 8.4, 2.8 Hz), 3.88 (3H, s); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (1D, s); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.3 (C5), 149.4 (C1), 129.9 (C3), 121.3 (C4), 115.6 (1:1:1 t, $J = 26.2$ Hz) (C2), 108.3 (C6), 55.9 (C7); MS (EI) m/z 154 (M^+ , 100).

2-Deutero-3-methylbenzofuran (2g)



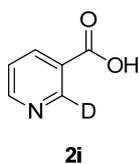
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 3-methylbenzofuran-2-carboxylic acid (0.088g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2g** as an orange-red oil (0.54 g, 81%, (93% deuteration)). IR: 2923, 2855, 1722, 1461, 1218, 1122, 1070; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55 (1H, d, $J = 7.6$ Hz); 7.48 (1H, d, $J = 7.6$ Hz); 7.42 (0.075H, s); 7.31 (1H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz); 7.26 (1H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz); 2.27 (3H, s); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 (1D, s); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.3 (C8), 141.2 (1:1:1 t, $J = 30.5$ Hz) (C1), 129.2 (C3), 124.2 (C6), 122.3 (C5), 119.5 (C4), 115.5 (C2), 111.4 (C7), 7.9 (C9). MS (EI) m/z 133 (M^+ , 100).

2-Deutero-5-(*p*-tolyl)furan (2h)



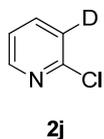
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 5-(*p*-tolyl)furan-2-carboxylic acid (0.088g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2h** as an yellow oil (0.64 g, 81%, (95% deuteration)). IR: 2919, 2852, 1458, 1208, 1017, 817; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (2H, d, 8.4 Hz); 7.46 (0.054H, dd, 2.0, 0.8 Hz); 7.21 (2H, d, 8.0 Hz), 6.61 (1H, d, 3.2 Hz); 6.47 (1H, d, 3.2 Hz); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.3 (C4), 141.6 (1:1:1 t, $J = 31.1$ Hz) (C1), 137.3 (C8), 129.5 (C7 & 9), 128.5 (C5), 123.9 (C6 & 10), 111.5 (C3), 104.3 (C2), 21.4 (C11); MS (EI) m/z 159 (M^+ , 100).

2-deutero-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid (2i)



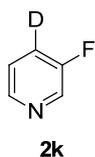
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure in a sealed vessel with pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid (0.017 g, 0.1 mmol) and d_6 -DMSO (0.2 mL) to afford **2i** (91%, (95% deuteration)) as calculated by ^1H NMR using mesitylene as the internal standard. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 9.05 (0.054H, s); 8.77 (1H, d, $J = 1.6$ Hz); 8.27 (1H, d, $J = 7.6$ Hz); 7.54 (1H, t, 6.2 Hz); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.19 (1D, s).

2-Chloro-3-deuteropyridine (2j)



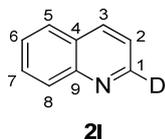
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure in a sealed vessel with 2-chloronicotinic acid (0.016 g, 0.1 mmol) and d_6 -DMSO (0.5 mL) to afford **2j** (100%, (95% deuteration)) as calculated by ^1H NMR using mesitylene as the internal standard. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.39 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 2.0$ Hz); 7.84 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz); 7.48 (0.048H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz); 7.40 (1H, dd, $J = 7.6, 4.8$ Hz). ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (1D, s); MS (EI) m/z 114 (M^+ , 100).

3-Fluoro-4-deuteropyridine (**2k**)



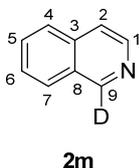
The reaction was carried out following the general procedure in a sealed vessel with 3-fluoroisonicotinic acid (0.014 g, 0.1 mmol) and d_6 -DMSO (0.5 mL) to afford **2k** (81%, (95% deuteration)) as calculated by ^1H NMR using mesitylene as the internal standard. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.46 (1H, s); 8.39 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 2.0$ Hz); 7.60 (0.053H, dddd, $J = 8.8, 8.8, 2.8, 1.2$ Hz), 7.43 (1H, t, $J = 4.8$ Hz). ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (1D, s); MS (EI) m/z 98 (M^+ , 100).

2-Deuteroquinoline (**2l**)



The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 2-quinolinecarboxylic acid (0.087 g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2l** as a colourless oil (0.60 g, 93%, (97% deuteration)). IR: 2928, 2856, 1625, 1584, 1327, 1217, 898; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.90 (0.029H, dd, 4.0, 1.6 Hz); 8.11 (2H, t, 7.2 Hz); 7.79 (1H, d, 8.0 Hz); 7.70 (1H, t, 7.6 Hz); 7.52 (1H, t, 7.4 Hz); 7.36 (1H, d, 8.0 Hz); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.95 (1D, s); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.1 (1:1:1 t, $J = 27.3$ Hz) (C1), 148.4 (C9), 136.1 (C3), 129.6 (C7), 129.5 (C8), 128.4 (C4), 127.9 (C5), 126.6 (C6), 121.0 (C2); MS (EI) m/z 130 (M^+ , 100).

1-Deuteroisoquinoline (**2m**)



The reaction was carried out following the general procedure with 1-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid (0.087 g, 0.5 mmol) to afford **2l** as a colourless oil (0.59 g, 91%, (98% deuteration)). IR: 2916, 2849, 1626, 1463, 1330, 1255, 890; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.25 (0.023H, s); 8.52 (1H, d, 6.0 Hz); 7.95 (1H, d, 8.0 Hz); 7.79 (1H, t, 7.6 Hz); 7.67 (1H, t, 7.6 Hz); 7.63 (1H, d, 5.6 Hz); 7.58 (1H, t, 7.4 Hz); ^2H NMR (61 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.29 (1D, s); ^{13}C NMR

(101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3 (1:1:1 t, $J = 31.1$ Hz) (C9), 143.1 (C1), 135.9 (C3), 130.4 (C5), 128.7 (C5), 127.7 (C7), 127.3 (C6), 126.5 (C4), 120.5 (C2); MS (EI) m/z 130 (M⁺, 100).

