# Copper(II)-catalyzed C-O coupling of aryl bromides with aliphatic diols: synthesis of ethers, phenols, and benzo-fused cyclic ethers

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## **Supporting Information**

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### **1.** General considerations

**Reagents:** All the copper catalysts have purity greater than 97% and aliphatic diols were reagent grade. All reagents and solvent were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Dichloromethane was dried by CaH<sub>2</sub>. All manipulations were carried out under Ar.

**Analytical methods:** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a 500 MHz spectrometer (125 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). Multiplicities are indicated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quadruplet), quintet, m (multiplet), and coupling constants (*J*) are reported in hertz units. Spectrometer with chemical shifts reported in ppm relative to residual solvent peaks or to TMS as the internal standard. GC-MS analysis conducted on a GC-MSD system and products described in GC yield were accorded to the authentic sample/*n*-dodecane calibration standard from GC-MSD. LC-MS and HRMS spectra were recorded using ESI mode. IR spectra were recorded in neat. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel60 (230-400 mesh) and TLC was performed on silica gel 60  $F_{254}$  glass plate.

### 2. Copper(II)-catalyzed coupling of aryl bromides with aliphatic diols (Table 2 and Table3)



### 2.1. General experimental procedure (I)

To a Schlenk test tube charged with a mixture of aryl bromide (1) (1.0 mmol) and potassium carbonate (415 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added copper chloride (6.7 mg, 0.05 mmol) and aliphatic diols (1.0 mL) under Ar. The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was then acidified to pH=3 with 1N HCl solution. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with EtOAc and the combined organic layers was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography afforded the desired product (**2**, **3**, **4**).

#### 2.2. Synthesis and characterization of the products

**2-**(*p*-tolyloxy)ethanol (2a)<sup>1</sup> [CAS: 15149-10-7] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene (171 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (146 mg, 96%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.08 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96-3.93 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.12 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.5, 130.4, 130.0, 114.4, 69.2, 61.6, 20.5; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 152, 108 (100), 91, 77, 65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Capparelli, M. P.; Deschepper, R. E.; Swenton, J. S. J. Org. Chem., 1987, 52, 4953-4966.



**2-phenoxyethanol** (2b) [CAS: 122-99-6] As the general procedure I, bromobenzene (157 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (136 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.91 (m, 3H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.98-3.94 (m, 2H), 2.20 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.8, 129.8, 121.4, 114.8, 69.2, 61.7; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 69.54, H 7.30; Found C 69.56, H 7.21; MS (EI) *m/z* = 138, 94(100), 77, 66, 51.



**2-**(*o*-tolyloxy)ethanol (2c) [CAS:6161-86-0] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-2-methylbenzene (171 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (150 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.85 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81-6.79 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05-4.04 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.9, 121.1, 127.12, 127.07, 121.1, 111.6, 69.5, 61.8, 16.5; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 71.03, H 7.95; Found C 71.04, H 8.01; FT-IR 3465, 2936, 1737, 1593, 1496, 1375, 1242, 1123, 1043, 917, 812, 743; MS (EI) m/z = 152, 108(100), 91, 77, 65.

**2-(2,6-dimethylphenoxy)ethanol** (2d) [CAS: 16737-71-6] As the general procedure I, 2-bromo-1,3dimethylbenzene (185 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 140 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (156 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96-6.91 (m, 1H), 3.98-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.91-3.75 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 2.21 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.6, 131.0, 129.2, 124.3, 73.1, 62.7, 16.5; HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 116.0994, found: 116.0991. IR (neat): 3294, 2948, 2912, 2871, 1466, 1223, 1202, 1076, 1045, 1031, 824, 771, 752, 673 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**2-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)ethanol** (2e) [CAS: 5960-05-4] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3,5dimethylbenzene(185 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130  $^{\circ}$ C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white-yellow solid (164 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.03-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 1H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 2.23 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.3, 130.8, 128.9, 72.9, 62.4, 16.3; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 72.26, H 8.49; Found C 72.27, H 8.50; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 166, 122 (100), 107, 77.



**2-(biphenyl-4-yloxy)ethanol**<sup>2</sup> (**2f**) [CAS: 19070-95-2] As the general procedure I, 4-bromobiphenyl (233 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (203 mg, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.2, 140.7, 134.2, 128.7, 128.2, 126.7, 114.8, 69.3, 61.5; MS (EI) *m/z* = 214, 170 (100), 141, 115.



**2-(naphthalen-1-yloxy)ethanol**<sup>3</sup> (**2g**) [CAS: 711-82-0] As the general procedure I, 1-bromonaphthalene (207 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as red solid (180 mg, 96%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.27 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.3, 134.5, 127.6, 126.5, 125.8, 125.5, 125.3, 121.7, 120.8, 104.9, 69.5, 61.6; MS (ESI) *m/z* = 189.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).



**2-(naphthalen-2-yloxy)ethanol** (**2h**)<sup>4</sup> [**CAS: 93-20-9**] As the general procedure I, 2-bromonaphthalene (207 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (174 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$  7.81-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 2H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$  156.8, 134.7, 129.8, 129.4, 127.9, 127.0, 126.7, 124.1, 119.0, 107.1, 69.4, 61.8.

E. Bioorg. Med. Chem., 2004, 12, 4937-4951.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Zhang, T.; Park, S.-Y.; Farmer, B. L.; Interrante, L. V. J. Polym. Sci., Part A: Polym. Chem. 2003, 41, 984-997.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Bolchi, C.; Catalano, P.; Fumagalli, L.; Gobbi, M.; Pallavicini, M.; Pedretti, A.; Villa, L.; Vistolia, D.; Valotia,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Kessler, S. N.; Wegner, H. A., Org. Lett.2010, 12, 4062-4065.

**2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)ethanol** <sup>5</sup> (**2i**) [CAS: 5394-57-0] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4methoxybenzene (187 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (156 mg, 93%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.88-6.83 (m, 4H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.08-2.04 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.3, 152.9, 115.8, 114.9, 70.1, 61.8, 55.9; MS (EI) *m/z* = 168, 124 (100), 109, 81.

**2-(3-methoxyphenoxy)ethanol** (**2j**) As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3-methoxybenzene (187mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (154 mg, 92%).<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20-7.17 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.54-6.48 (m, 3H), 4.08-4.06 (m, 2H), 3.96-3.95 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.8, 159.8, 129.9, 106.68, 106.65, 101.1, 69.2, 61.5, 55.3; MS (EI) m/z = 168, 124 (100), 94, 77. Elemental analysis (%): Calcd for C 64.27, H 7.19; Found C 64.23, H 7.20; FT-IR 3354, 2939, 2875, 1729, 1588, 1492, 1453, 1335, 1264, 1199, 1038, 994, 834, 761, 686.

**2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)ethanol** <sup>6</sup> (**2k**) [CAS: 118181-71-0] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-2methoxybenzene (187 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (154 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.98-6.89 (m, 4H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.91(m, 1H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.9, 148.3, 122.1, 121.3, 114.8, 112.1, 71.4, 61.3, 55.8; MS (ESI) *m/z* = 169.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenoxy)ethanol** (**2l**) [CAS: 27318-86-1] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3,5dimethoxybenzene (217 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (196 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.10 (s, 3H), 4.05-4.03 (m, 2H),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Brand, J. P.; Charpentier, J.; Waser, J. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 9346-9349.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Ochoa-Teran, A.; Rivero, I. A. ARKIVOC, 2008, 2, 235-242.

3.94-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.7, 160.7, 93.7, 69.4, 61.6, 55.6; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 60.59, H 7.12; Found C 60.60, H 7.11; MS (ESI) *m/z* = 199.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethanol** (**2m**) [CAS: 49650-88-6] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (175 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (149 mg, 96%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.97 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86-6.84 (m, 2H), 4.04 (m, 2H), 3.96-3.94 (m, 2H), 2.38 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.7 (d, J = 237.25 Hz, C-F), 155.0 (d, J = 2.13 Hz, C-F), 116.1(d, J = 22.87 Hz, C-F), 115.8 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, C-F), 70.1, 61.6; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 61.53, H 5.81; Found C 61.52, H 5.85; MS (EI) m/z = 156.



**2-(4-chlorophenoxy)ethanol** (**2n**) [CAS: 2924-66-5] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless solid (165 mg, 96%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.23 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.97-3.94 (m, 2H), 2.10-2.06 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.2, 129.4, 126.0, 115.8, 69.5, 61.4; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 55.67, H 5.26; Found C 55.62, H 5.19; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 170.9 (M<sup>\*</sup>).

**2-(3-chlorophenoxy)ethanol (20)** [CAS: 6161-83-7] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless solid (163 mg, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.10-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.98-3.92 (m, 2H), 2.09 (br-s, 1H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.3, 134.9, 130.3, 121.3, 115.0, 113.0, 69.4, 61.3.

**1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)ethanone** <sup>7</sup> (**2p**) [CAS: 31769-45-6] As the general procedure I, 4'-Bromoacetophenone (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 36 h at 110 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as orange solid (158 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Mello, R.; Martinez-Ferrer, J.; Asensio, G.; Gonzalez-Nunez, M. E. J. Org. Chem., 2007, 72, 9376-9378.

6.96 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.13 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.8, 162.5, 130.65, 130.64, 114.2, 69.4, 61.3, 26.4; MS (ESI) m/z = 181.0 (M<sup>+</sup>).



**1-(3-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)ethanone** <sup>8</sup> (**2q**) [CAS: 1892-43-9] As the general procedure I, 1-(3bromophenyl)ethanone(200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 110 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (162 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 1H), 4.14 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.01-3.96 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.18 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.2, 159.1, 138.7, 129.9, 121.8, 120.3, 113.3, 69.6, 61.6, 27.0; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 180, 165, 121(100), 93, 65.



**1-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)ethanone** <sup>9</sup> (**2r**) [CAS: 126572-94-9] As the general procedure I, 2'bromoacetophenone (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 110 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (150 mg, 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.72 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (s, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  199.9, 157.9, 133.7, 130.5, 128.6, 121.1, 113.6, 70.6, 61.2, 31.3; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 180, 165, 121(100), 93, 65.



**2-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy)ethanol** (**2s**) [CAS: 887268-12-4] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3,5-bis (trifluoromethyl)benzene (293 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (249 mg, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49 (s, 1H), 7.34 (s, 2H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.20, 133.9 (q, *J* = 33.38 Hz, C-F), 123.1 (q, *J* = 271.13 Hz, C-F), 114.9 (m, *J* = 4.0 Hz, C-F), 114.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Riggio, G.; Raeber, A. J.; Hopff, W. H. Helv.Chim.Acta., 1989, 72, 1216-1224.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Fumagalli,L.;Bolchi, C.; Colleoni, S.; Gobbi, M.; Moroni, B.; Pallavicini, M.; Pedretti, A.; Villa, L.; Vistolia,

G.; Valoti, E. Bioorg. Med. Chem., 2005, 13, 2547-2559.

(q, *J* = 3.75 Hz, C-F), 70.0, 61.1; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 43.81, H 2.93; Found C 43.87, H 2.93; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 274.

**3-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenol**<sup>10</sup> (**2t**) [CAS: 850895-55-5] As the general procedure I, 3-bromophenol (173 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (145 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.52-6.49 (m, 1H), 6.46-6.43 (m, 2H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.08-4.02 (m, 2H), 3.99-3.88 (m, 2H), 2.10-2.07 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.0, 156.7, 130.2, 108.2, 107.0, 102.2, 69.1, 61.5; MS (EI) *m/z* = 154, 110(100), 93, 82, 65.

**2-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)ethanol** (**2u**) [CAS: 4960-67-2] As the general procedure I, 2-(4bromophenyl)ethanol (201mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% methanol in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded the desired product as white solid (145 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.10-4.02 (m, 2H), 4.02-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.3, 130.9, 130.1, 114.7, 69.2, 63.8, 61.5, 38.3; MS (EI) *m/z* = 182, 151, 107(100), 77.

**4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzoic acid** (**2v**) [CAS: 1711-24-6] As the general procedure I, 4-bromobenzoic acid (201 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 hat 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% methanol in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded the desired product as white solid (173 mg, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.4, 162.8, 131.8, 123.3,114.7, 70.2, 59.9; Elemental analysis (%) : Calcd. for C 59.34, H 5.53; Found C 59.38, H 5.41; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 181.1 (M<sup>-</sup>).

**2-(pyridin-3-yloxy)ethanol**<sup>11</sup> (**2w**) [CAS: 119967-49-6] As the general procedure I, 3-bromopyridine (158 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 hat 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Singh, A.; Yip, W. -T.; Halterman, R. L. Org. Lett., 2012, 14, 4046-4049.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Kocak, A.; Kurbanli, S.; Malkondu, S. Synth.Commun., 2007, 37, 3697-3708.

(125 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.33(t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.23(t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 4.15-4.13 (m, 2H), 4.02-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.0, 142.2, 138.0, 124.0, 121.2, 69.7, 61.1; MS (EI) m/z = 139, 95(100), 78, 67, 51.



**3-phenoxypropan-1-ol**<sup>12</sup> (**3b**) [CAS: 6180-61-6] As the general procedure I, bromobenzene(157mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (137 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.90 (m, 3H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz,2H), 3.87-3.84 (m, 2H), 2.06-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.96 (t, J = 5.0 Hz,1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.7, 129.5, 120.9, 114.5, 65.6, 60.5, 32.0; MS (EI) *m/z* = 166, 108(100), 91, 77.



**3-(o-tolyloxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>12</sup> (**3c**) [CAS: 52448-99-4] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-2-methylbenzene (171 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (128 mg, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.19-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 2H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz,2H), 3.90-3.88 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.10-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.92 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.8, 130.7, 126.8, 126.5, 120.5, 110.8, 65.9, 60.9, 32.1, 16.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 180, 122(100), 107, 91, 77.



**3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yloxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>2</sup> (**3f**) [CAS: 173025-78-0] As the general procedure I, 4-bromo-1,1'biphenyl (233 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (187 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz,2H),2.10- 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  158.3, 140.8, 134.0, 128.7, 126.8, 126.72, 126.68, 114.8, 65.9, 60.6, 32.0; MS (EI) *m/z* = 228.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Sugimura, T.; Hagiya, K.; Sato, Y.; Tei, T.; Tai, A.Okuyama, T. Org. Lett., 2001, 3, 37-40.

**3-(3-methoxyphenoxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>13</sup> (**3j**) [CAS:136167-42-5] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3methoxybenzene (187 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (169 mg, 93%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53-6.50 (m, 2H), 6.47 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.88-3.84 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.04 (quintet, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.78 (m, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.8, 160.0, 129.9, 106.6, 106.5, 100.9, 65.8, 60.6, 55.3, 32.0; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 182, 124(100), 94.

**3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>14</sup> (**3k**) [CAS: 136167-44-7] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-2methoxybenzene (187 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (149 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.94-6.80 (m, 4H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.89-3.85 (m, 5H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10-2.06 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.4, 148.1, 121.5, 120.8, 113.3, 111.5, 68.5, 61.6, 55.8, 31.8; MS (EI) *m/z* = 182.



**3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenoxy)propan-1-ol(3l)** [CAS: 1082823-86-6] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3,5dimethoxybenzene (217 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (182 mg, 86%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.09 (s, 3H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.89-3.85 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 2.03 (quintet, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 1.73 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 161.5, 160.6, 93.4, 65.8, 60.6, 55.4, 32.0; HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 213.1127, found: 212.1126. IR (neat): 3387, 2941, 1592, 1470, 1193, 1146, 1060, 818, 752, 681 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**3-(4-fluorophenoxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>15</sup> (**3m**) [CAS: 104413-57-2] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4fluorobenzene (175 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (138 mg, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.99-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz,2H), 3.89-3.85 (m, 2H), 2.03 (p, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz,1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Zettl, H.; Steri, R.; Lammerhofer, M.; Schubert-Zsilavecz, M. Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 2009, 19, 4421-4426.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Panchgalle, S. P.; Kunte, S. S.; Chavan, S. P.; Kalkote, U. R.Synth.Commun., **2011**, *41*, 1938-1944.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Peprah, K.; Zhu, X. Y.; Eyunni, S. V.K.; Etukala, J. R.; Setola, V.; Roth, B. L.; Ablordeppey, S. Y.*Bioorg. Med. Chem.*, **2012**, *20*, 1671-1678.

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.3 (d, *J* = 236.75 Hz, C-F),154.9 (d, *J* = 2.13 Hz, C-F), 115.8 (d, *J* = 228.75 Hz, C-F), 115.4 (d, *J* = 7.87 Hz, C-F), 66.3, 60.4, 32.0; MS (EI)*m*/*z* = 170, 112(100), 83, 57.



**3-(4-chlorophenoxy)propan-1-ol** <sup>16</sup> (**3n**) [CAS: 18673-04-6] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (147 mg, 79%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.24-7.22 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 2H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 3.86 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (p, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 1.69 (s, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.4, 129.3, 125.7, 115.7, 104.7, 85.9, 60.3, 31.9; MS (EI) *m/z* = 186.



**3-(3-chlorophenoxy)propan-1-ol**<sup>16</sup> (**3o**) [CAS: 57264-55-8] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (153 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.19 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.87-3.84 (m, 2H), 2.06-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.77 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.5, 134.9, 130.2, 121.0, 114.9, 113.0, 65.7, 60.1, 31.9; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 186.

**4-**(*p*-tolyloxy)butan-1-ol<sup>17</sup> (4a) [CAS: 60222-64-2] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene (171 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C using Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base instead of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (144 mg, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.07 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.91-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.7, 129.93, 129.88, 114.3, 67.8, 62.0, 29.6, 25.9, 20.5; MS (EI) *m/z* = 180, 108(100), 77.

**4-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)butan-1-ol (4e)** [CAS: 40324-48-9] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3,5-dimethylbenzene (185 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130  $\degree$ Cusing Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Goosen, A.; Marais, C. F.; McCleland, C. W.; Rinaldi, F. C. J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2, 1995, 1227-1236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>Sword, R.; Baldwin, L. A.; Murphy, J. A. Org. Biomol. Chem., 2011, 9, 3560-3570.

instead of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (120 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.60 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.99-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.73-3.69 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.88-1.85(m, 2H), 1.76-1.73 (m, 2H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.1, 139.4, 122.8, 112.5, 67.8, 62.8, 29.8, 26.2, 21.7; HRMS (FAB) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 195.1385, found: 195.1388. IR (neat): 3338, 2918, 2870,1593, 1467, 1322, 1294, 1167, 1154, 1057, 826, 687 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)butan-1-ol** (**4i**) [CAS: 123731-28-2] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4methoxybenzene (187 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C using Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base instead of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (153 mg, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.86-6.81 (m, 4H), 3.96-3.94 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.73-3.70 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.85 (m, 3H), 1.77-1.75 (2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.6, 153.1, 115.7, 115.0, 68.2, 60.9, 55.8, 29.5, 26.0; HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: calcd for 196.1099, found: 196.1100. IR (neat): 3294, 2949, 2911, 2877, 1508, 1223, 1114, 1032, 824, 737 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**4-(4-chlorophenoxy)butan-1-ol (4n)** [CAS: 55129-23-2] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-4-chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C using Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base instead of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (124 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.5, 132.2, 129.3, 125.5, 116.3, 115.7, 68.0, 62.5,48.2, 29.4, 25.7;HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: calcd for 201.0682, found: 201.0682. IR (neat): 3351, 2943, 2873, 1491, 1240, 1046, 822, 664,507 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**4-(3-chlorophenoxy)butan-1-ol** (**4o**) [CAS: 1153244-52-0] As the general procedure I, 1-bromo-3-chlorobenzene (191 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred for 20 h at 130 °C using Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base instead of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (144 mg, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$  7.21-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.83-6.73 (m, 1H), 4.08-3.92 (m, 2H), 3.75-3.71 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.9, 135.1, 130.4, 121.1, 115.1, 113.3, 68.2, 62.7, 29.6, 25.9; HRMS (FAB) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: calcd for 201.0682, found: 201.0681. IR (neat): 3335, 2943, 2874, 1593, 1468, 1283, 1245, 1230, 1046, 765, 629,444 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

### 3. Synthesis of phenols using arylalkyl ethers (Scheme 1)



### 3.1. General experimental procedure (II)

To a solution of aryloxy-aliphatic alcohol (2, 3, 4) (1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was added potassium hydroxide (168 mg, 3.0 mmol) and DMSO (3.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 100  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h (120  $^{\circ}$ C and 5 h for 3). The reaction mixture was then acidified to pH=3 with 1N HCl solution. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with EtOAc and the combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine, and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography afforded the desired phenolic product (5).

### 3.2. Synthesis and characterization of the products



*p*-cresol<sup>18</sup> (5a) [CAS: 106-44-5] from 2a: As the general procedure II, 2-(*p*-tolyloxy)ethanol(152 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (107 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.03 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.75-6.71 (m, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.2, 130.1, 130.0, 115.1, 20.5; MS (EI) *m/z* = 108(100), 77, 51. *p*-cresol<sup>18</sup> (5a) [CAS: 106-44-5] from 4a: As the general procedure II, 4-(*p*-tolyloxy)butan-1-ol(180 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (105 mg, 98%).

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**Phenol**<sup>19</sup> (**5b**) [CAS: 108-95-2] As the general procedure II, 2-phenoxyethanol (138 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless solid (93 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.83-6.82 (m, 2H), 5.84 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.1, 129.7, 121.0, 115.4; MS (EI) *m/z* =94.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Yang,K.; Li, Z.; Wang, Z.; Yao, Z.; Jiang, S.Org. Lett. 2011, 13, 4340-4343.



**3,5-dimethylphenol**<sup>18</sup> (**5e**) [CAS: 108-68-9] As the general procedure II, 2-(3,5-dimetyl phenoxy)ethanol (166 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as yellow solid (120 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.58 (s, 1H), 6.46 (s, 2H), 4.76 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.6, 157.3, 94.2, 93.2, 55.4; MS (EI) *m/z* = 122.



**4-biphenol**<sup>19</sup> (**5f**) [CAS: 92-69-3] from **2e**: As the general procedure II, 2-(biphenyl-4- yloxy)ethanol (214 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white liquid (168 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 6.92-6.90 (m, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.0, 140.7, 134.0, 128.7, 128.4, 126.71, 126.70, 115.6; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 170 (100), 141, 115.

**4-biphenol**<sup>19</sup> (**5f**) [CAS: 92-69-3] from **3e**: As the general procedure II, 3-(biphenyl-4-yloxy)propan-1-ol (228 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 5 h at 120 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white liquid (158 mg, 93%).



**Naphthalen-1-ol**<sup>20</sup> (**5g**) [CAS: 90-15-3] As the general procedure II, 2-(naphthalen-1-yloxy)ethanol (188 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (115 mg, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.76 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.3, 134.6, 129.8, 128.9, 127.8, 126.5, 126.4, 123.6, 117.7, 109.5; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 144 (100), 115, 89.

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**4-methoxyphenol**<sup>18</sup> (**5i**) [CAS: 150-76-5] from **2g**: As the general procedure II, 2-(4-methoxylphenoxy) ethanol (168 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100  $\degree$ C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Mann, G.;Incarvito, C.; Rheingold, A. L.;Hartwig, J. F. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1999, 121, 3224-3225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Chae, J. H. Arch. Pharm. Res. 2008, 31, 305-309.

colorless liquid (123 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.80-6.75 (m,4H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.8, 156.8, 130.2, 107.9, 106.4, 101.6, 55.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 124, 109 (100), 81, 53. 4-methoxyphenol<sup>18</sup> (**5g**) from **4g**: As the general procedure II, 4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)butan-1-ol (196mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (121 mg, 98%).

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**3-methoxyphenol**  $(5j)^{21}$  As the general procedure II,2-(3-methoxyphenoxy)ethanol (168mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (114 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.50-6.48 (m, 1H), 6.45-6.42 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 160.8, 156.7, 130.2, 107.9, 106.4, 101.6, 55.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 124 (100), 94, 81, 66, 53.



**2-methoxyphenol**<sup>22</sup> (**5k**) [CAS: 90-05-1] As the general procedure II, 2-(2-methylphenoxy) ethanol (168mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as yellow solid (109 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.92 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 3H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.5, 145.6, 121.4, 120.1, 114.5, 110.6, 55.8; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 124.

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**3,5-dimethoxyphenol**<sup>22</sup> (**51**) [CAS: 500-99-2] from **2j**: As the general procedure II, 2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenoxy)ethanol(198 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 5 hat 120 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as orange liquid (140 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.08 (s, 1H), 6.03 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.6, 157.3, 94.3, 93.2, 55.3; MS (ESI) *m/z* = 153.1 (M<sup>-</sup>).

**3,5-dimethoxyphenol**<sup>22</sup> (**5**I) [CAS: 500-99-2] from **3j**: As the general procedure II, 3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenoxy)propan-1-ol (212 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 5 hat 120 °C. Following

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Thakur, K. G.; Sekar, G. Chem. Commun., 2011, 47, 6692-6694.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>Jing, L.; Wei, J.; Zhou, L.; Huang, Z.; Li, Z.; Zhou, X.Chem.Commun.2010, 46, 4767-4769.

aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as orange liquid (141 mg, 91%).



**4-fluorophenol**<sup>18</sup> (**5m**) [CAS: 371-41-5] As the general procedure II, 2-(4-fluorophenoxy) ethanol (156 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as brown liquid (109 mg, 98%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.94-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.76 (m, 2H), 4.85 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.2 (d, *J* = 236.25 Hz, C-F), 151.5 (d, *J* = 2.25 Hz, C-F), 116.1 (d, *J* = 7.88 Hz, C-F), 116.0 (d, *J* = 23.25 Hz, C-F); MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 112.



**4-chlorophenol**<sup>18</sup> (**5n**) [CAS: 106-48-9] As the general procedure II, 2-(4-chlorophenoxy) ethanol (172 mg, 1.0 mmol,) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (127 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.1, 129.8, 126.1, 117.0; MS (ESI) *m/z* = 130, 128 (100), 65.

**4-chlorophenol**<sup>18</sup> (**5n**) [CAS: 106-48-9] As the general procedure II, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy) propan-1-ol (186mg, 1.0 mmol,) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 5 h at 120  $^{\circ}$ C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (122 mg, 95%).



**3-chlorophenol**<sup>18</sup> (**50**) [CAS: 108-43-0] As the general procedure II, 4-(3-chlorophenoxy)butan-1-ol (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as colorless liquid (127 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.91 (m, 1H),6.87-6.85 (m, 1H),6.73-6.71 (m, 1H),5.05 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.2, 134.9, 130.5, 121.1, 115.9, 113.7; MS (ESI) *m*/*z* = 130 (M<sup>+</sup>), 128 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 100, 65.

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**1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethanone**<sup>19</sup> (**5p**) [CAS: 99-93-4] As the general procedure II, 1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy) phenyl)ethanone (0.18 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as white solid (134 mg, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.93-7.91 (m,2H), 6.93-6.91 (m,

2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.2, 161.0, 131.2, 129.8, 115.5, 26.4.; MS (EI) *m*/*z* = 136, 121 (100), 93, 65.

**3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenol** <sup>23</sup> (**5s**) [CAS: 349-58-6] As the general procedure II, 2-(3,5-bis (trifluoromethyl)phenoxy)ethanol (274 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product as brown liquid (218 mg, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  10.93 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  156.4, 133.0 (q, *J* = 8.38 Hz, C-F), 123.6 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, C-F), 122.6 (q, *J* = 271.38 Hz, C-F), 121.4 (quintet, *J* = 3.5 Hz, C-F); MS (EI) *m/z* = 230.



**4-hydroxybenzoic acid**<sup>18</sup> (**5v**) [CAS: 99-96-7] As the general procedure II, 4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzoic acid (182 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk flask was stirred for 3 h at 100 °C. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% methanol in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded the desired product as white solid (124 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  12.42 (s, 1H), 10.22 (s, 1H), 7.78 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  167.8, 162.3, 132.2, 122.1, 115.8.

### 4. Synthesis of benzofurans using arylalkyl ethers (Scheme 2)



### 4.1 General experimental procedure (III)

To a solution of aryloxyethanol (2) (2 mmol) in DMSO, was added IBX (846 mg, 3 mmol). Then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. 20 mL of water was added and filtered. The filtrate was extracted with ethyl acetate and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$  and then condensed. The crude product was directly used for the next step. It was dissolved in toluene (10 mL) and Amberlyst (0.4g) was added. Then the mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 2 h. After filtration, toluene was removed in vacuum and the resulting crude product was purified by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) to afford the desired product (6).

### 4.2. Synthesis and characterization of the products

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>Zhao, D.; Wu,N.; Zhang,S.; Xi, P.; Su, X.; Lan, J.; You, J.Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 8729-8732.



**7-methylbenzofuran**<sup>24</sup> (6c) [CAS: 17059-52-8] As the general procedure (III), 2-(*o*-tolyloxy)ethanol (304 mg, 2 mmol) was used as substrate. After reaction, purification by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded colorless liquid (161 mg, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.79-6.66 (m, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.0, 144.6, 126.8, 125.0, 122.7, 121.6, 118.6, 106.8, 15.1.



naphtho[2,1-b]furan<sup>25</sup> (6h) [CAS: 232-95-1] As the general procedure (III), 2-(naphthalen-2-yloxy)ethanol (376 mg, 2 mmol) was used as substrate. After reaction, purification by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded white solid (211 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73-6.66 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m,1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.8, 144.4, 130.6, 129.0, 128.1, 126.5, 125.4, 124.7, 123.7, 122.9, 112.8, 105.8.



**5-methoxybenzofuran**<sup>26</sup> (**6i**) [CAS: 13391-28-1] As the general procedure (III), 2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)ethanol (336 mg, 2 mmol) was used as substrate. After reaction, purification by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded yellow liquid (223 mg, 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.98-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.9, 149.9, 145.7, 127.9, 113.1, 111.8, 106.7, 103.5, 55.9.

### 5. Synthesis of benzo-fused cyclic ethers using arylalkyl ethers (Scheme 3)



### 5.1. General experimental procedure (IV)

To a solution of aryloxy-aliphatic alcohol (2, 3, 4) (2.0 mmol) in a flask, was added Jones reagent (2 mL, 8.0 mmol) and acetone (10.0 mL) under ice bath. After stirring for 1 h at the same temperature, the reaction was quenched with water, and then extracted twice with EtOAc and the combined organic layer was washed with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Barker, P.; Finke, P.; Thompson, K. Synth. Commun. 1989,19, 257-265.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Antelo, B.; Castedo, L.; Delamano, J.; Gómez, A.; López, C.; Tojo, G. J. Org. Chem. 1996,61, 1188-1189.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Hu, Y.; Kamitanaka, T.; Mishima, Y.; Dohi, T.; Kita, Y. J. Org. Chem. **2013**, 78, 5530-5543.

 $H_2O$  and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate compounds. The intermediate compound was further dissolved in the dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL), and triflic acid (1.0 mL) was added by injection in small portions under ice bath. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was quenched with ice water, then extracted twice with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and the combined organic layer was washed with  $H_2O$  and saturated  $Na_2CO_3$  solution, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography afforded the desired benzo-fused cyclic ethers (7).

### 5.2. Synthesis and characterization of the products



**benzofuran-3(2H)-one**<sup>27</sup> (**7b**) [CAS: 7169-34-8] As the general procedure IV, 2-phenoxyethanol (276 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate product (2-phenoxyacetic acid[CAS: 122-59-8]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.33-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.89 (m, 3H), 4.66 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  171.0, 158.4, 130.2, 121.7, 115.1, 65.1) as white solid (228 mg, 75%). Then 2-phenoxyacetic acid (152 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after adding triflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**7c**) as light yellow liquid (111 mg, 83%). <sup>1</sup>HNMR (500 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$  7.69-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* =10.0 Hz,1H), 7.15 (d, *J* =10.0 Hz,1H), 7.11 (d, *J* =10.0 Hz,1H), 4.63 (s,2H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (125MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.9, 173.0, 136.9, 123.0, 121.0, 120.1, 112.6, 73.7.



**4,6-dimethylbenzofuran-3(2H)-one**<sup>28</sup> (**7d**) [CAS: 20895-44-7] As the general procedure IV, 2-(3,5-dimetyl phenoxy)ethanol (332 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate product (2-(3,5-dimethylphenoxy)acetic acid[CAS: 5406-14-4]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  6.67 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  171.0, 155.9, 131.0, 129.4, 124.7, 69.4, 16.6;) as white solid (317 mg, 88%). Then the intermediate product(180 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after adding triflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**7d**) as white solid (130 mg, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.73 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  200.0, 175.0, 149.3, 139.0, 124.8, 117.0, 110.8, 74.9, 22.4, 17.7. MS (EI) *m/z* = 162 (100), 133, 105, 77.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Lockner, J. W.; Dixon, D. D.; Risgaard, R.; Baran, P. S. Org. Lett., **2011**, 13, 5628-5631.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Sebej, P.; Lim, B. H.; Park, B. S.; Givens, R. S.; Klan, P. Org. Lett., 2011, 13, 644-647.



**6-phenylchroman-4-one** (**7f**) [CAS: 73316-17-3] As the general procedure IV, 3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4yloxy)propan-1-ol (556 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate compound (3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4yloxy)propanoic acid[CAS: 63472-21-9]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  12.40 (s, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 4H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 2H), 4.29-4.11 (m, 2H), 2.71-2.67 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  172.9, 158.7, 140.5, 133.4, 129.6, 128.5, 127.4, 126.9, 115.6, 64.4, 34.8) as white solid (440 mg, 91%). Then the intermediate compounds(242 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after adding triflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**7f**) as white solid (210 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.14 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46- 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  192.0, 161.5, 139.8, 134.9, 134.8, 129.1, 127.6, 127.0, 125.4, 121.6, 118.6, 67.3, 38.1.HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: calcd for 225.0916, found: 225.0916; IR (neat): 2876, 1683, 1611, 1476, 1454, 1402, 1295, 1247, 1219, 1172, 1030, 832, 762, 691, 557, 528 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**7-methoxychroman-4-one** <sup>29</sup> (**7j**) [CAS: 863309-86-8] As the general procedure IV, 3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propan-1-ol (364 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate compound (3-(3-methoxyphenoxy)propanoic acid[CAS: 49855-03-0]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  12.40 (s, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.52-6.46 (m, 3H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  173.0, 161.2, 160.3, 130.7, 107.2, 107.1, 101.3, 64.2, 55.8, 34.8) as brown solid (314 mg, 80%). Then the intermediate compound (196mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after addingtriflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**7j**) as white solid (160 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 4.52 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  190.5, 166.0, 163.8, 128.9, 115.3, 109.9, 100.7, 67.4, 55.6, 37.4.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Siddaiah, V.; Rao, C. V.; Venkateswarlu, S.; Krishnaraju, A. V.; Subbaraju, G. V. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2006**, *14*, 2545-2 551.

**7-methyl-3,4-dihydrobenzo[b]oxepin-5(2H)-one**<sup>30</sup> (**7a**) [CAS: 41177-66-6] As the general procedure IV, 4-(p-tolyloxy)butan-1-ol (360 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate compound (4-(p-tolyloxy)butanoic acid[CAS: 22180-02-5]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  12.17 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.39-2.35 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  174.8, 157.1, 130.5, 129.8, 114.9, 67.1, 30.8, 25.0, 20.8) white solid (369 mg, 95%). Then the intermediate compound (194 mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after adding triflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**7a**) as white solid (162 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.44-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.14 (m, 2H), 2.78-2.75 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.10-2.08 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  200.9, 159.8, 135.3, 132.5, 129.5, 129.4, 121.5, 73.0, 41.0, 26.0, 20.7.



**8-chloro-3,4-dihydrobenzo[b]oxepin-5(2H)-one** (**70**) [CAS: 37483-57-1] As the general procedure IV, 4-(3-chlorophenoxy)butan-1-ol (400 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a flask was stirred for 1 h under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by recrystallization afforded the intermediate compound (4-(3-chlorophenoxy)butanoic acid [CAS: 5057-51-2]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.16 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.92-6.90 (m, 1H), 4.01-4.00 (m, 2H), 2.38 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.93 (m, 2H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 174.7, 160.2, 134.4, 131.6, 121.2, 115.2, 114.2, 67.7, 30.7, 24.8) as white solid (360 mg, 84%). Then the intermediate compound (214mg, 1.0 mmol) in a Schlenk test tube was stirred overnight at room temperature after adding triflic acid (1.0 mL) under ice bath. Following aqueous workup, purification of the crude product by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded the desired product (**70**) as white solid (182mg, 93%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.27-4.24 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.24-2.21 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 199.7, 162.8, 139.6, 130.9, 127.8, 123.5, 121.3, 73.5, 40.8, 26.4. HRMS (FAB) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: calcd for 197.0369, found: 197.0369; IR (neat): 2969, 1680, 1590, 1558, 1414, 1372, 1268, 1198, 1086, 1050, 985, 819, 767, 592, 515 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

### 6. Synthesis of phenol in 0.1 mol scale

Bromodobenzene (**1b**, 15.7 g, 0.1 mol), CuCl<sub>2</sub> (0.67 g, 5 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (41 g, 0.3 mol) were stirred in 56 mL of ethylene glycol (1.0 mol, ~2 M) under Ar atmosphere at 130 °C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with 100 mL of water after cooling to room temperature, acidified with concentrated HCl to pH=3 under ice bath, and then extracted with ethyl acetate (200 mL x 2). The combined organic layer was washed with water for twice and brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and concentrated in vacuum to give a pale yellow liquid **2b** (13.7 g, 0. 099 mol, crude yield 99%). The concentrated crude coupled product was directly used for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>Nikitin, K. V.; Andryukhova, N. P. Can. J. Chem., 2004, 82, 571-578.

the next reaction and well cleaved at 100 °C after 5 h in the presence of KOH (16.8 g, 0.3 mol) in 200 mL of DMSO under  $N_2$  atmosphere. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with 200 mL of water, acidified with concentrated HCl under ice bath to pH=3, and then extracted with ether (200 mL x 4). The combined organic layer was washed with water for twice and brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and concentrated in vacuum to afford the crude phenol, which was further purified by distillation under reduced pressure to give phenol **5b** (8.75 g, 0.093 mol, yield 93% over 2 steps) as colorless liquid.

## 7. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra





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Parameter	Value			
Title	131121-L-nap-ethanol-C			
Comment	Std proton			O OH
Origin	Varian			
Spectrometer	vnnrs			
Solvent	cdcl3			
Temperature	3.0			
Pulse Sequence	s2pul			
Number of Scans	1554			
Receiver Gain	20			
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S36










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	Parameter	Value	$\wedge$
1	Title	111014-SK-phenol-H	
2	Comment	Std proton	HO
3	Origin	Varian	
4	Spectrometer	vnmrs	
5	Solvent	cdcl3	
6	Temperature	30.0	
7	Experiment	1D	
8	Probe	dualbb	
9	Number of Scans	8	
10	Spectrometer Frequency	500.02	
11	Spectral Width	8012.8	
12	Lowest Frequency	-1053.2	
13	Nucleus	1H	
14	Acquired Size	16415	
15	Spectral Size	65536	



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## S63



## S64









S68



S69

		C117	6.76	-537
Parameter	Value	N.	N.	CI
1 Title	111006-SK-4chlo	orophe	nol-H	
2 Comment	Std proton			
3 Origin	Varian			HU
4 Spectrometer	vnmrs			
5 Solvent	cdcl3			
6 Temperature	30.0			
7 Experiment	1D			
8 Probe	dualbb			
9 Number of Scans	8			
10 Spectrometer Frequer	cy 500.02			
11 Spectral Width	8012.8			
12 Lowest Frequency	-1022.4			
13 Nucleus	1H			
14 Acquired Size	16415			
15 Spectral Size	65536			



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	Parameter	Value	
1	Title	110926-SK-07-3Cl-H	
2	Comment	Std proton	
3	Origin	Varian	HO * CI
4	Spectrometer	vnmrs	
5	Solvent	cdcl3	
6	Temperature	30.0	
7	Experiment	1D	
8	Probe	dualbb	
9	Number of Scans	8	
10	) Spectrometer Frequency	y 500.02	
11	Spectral Width	8012.8	
12	2 Lowest Frequency	-1009.4	
1.	3 Nucleus	1H	
14	4 Acquired Size	16415	
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110 100 f1 (ppm) 

S71

0.00




110 100 f1 (ppm) 220 210 150 140 130 -10 







		7.591 7.399 7.7382	6.909 6.896 6.896	L6.707	-3.846		-1.567	-0.000
Parameter Title Comment	Value 130723-XY6-557-H Std proton				·			
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Temperature	30.0						0	
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Parameter	Value							
Comment	Std proton						<u>^</u>	
Origin	Varian							¥ <sup>0</sup> ⟩
Spectrometer	vnmrs							
Solvent	cdcl3						0. ~	
Temperature	3.0						CH <sub>3</sub>	
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Receiver Gain	30				1			
Relaxation Delav	1.0000							
Pulse Width	0.0000							
Spectrometer Frequency	125.74							
Spectral Width	30487.8							
Lowest Frequency	-2072.5							
Nucleus	13C 30640							
Spectral Size	131072	1		h I.				
	Partonicumantina							
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## S87



