# **Supporting Information**

# Boric acid catalyzed Ugi three-component reaction in aqueous media

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**General:** All the reagents and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Merck chemical Co. Column chromatography was performed using Spectrochem siliga gel (100-200). Organic solvents were concentrated under reduced pressure on Ika rotary evaporator. The progress of reaction was checked by thin-layer chromatography. The plates were visualized first with UV illumination followed by iodine. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained using either a Bruker DRX-200 or AV-300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard and <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra are reported in the order: multiplicity, coupling constant (J value) in hertz (Hz) and no of protons; signals were characterized as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 50 or 75 MHz. Mass spectra were obtained using JEOL SX-102 (ESI) instrument. Elemental analysis was performed using a Perkin-Elmer Autosystem XL Analyzer.

#### General experiment procedure for the synthesis of 2-arylamino-2-phenylacetamide (4)

Aniline (1 mmol), Aldehyde (1 mmol), Isocyanide (1 mmol) and Boric acid (10 mol %) were placed into a 50 mL flask and (5 mL) water was added to the mixture and stirred for 1h at room temperature for an appropriate time given in Table 3 and the progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The solvent was evaporated to yield a crude residue, which upon purification *via* silica gel column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane gave pure products.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of a-Amino Acid (5)

In a 25 mL round-bottom flask, 2-arylamino-2-phenylacetamide 4 (1 mmol) in 6N HCl (20 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 24 h, cooled at room temperature than extracted with ethyl acetate/water and apply column chromatography to yield compound.

**Table 4.** Synthesis of  $\alpha$ -Amino acid by acidic hydrolysis of 2-arylamino-2-phenylacetamide.



<sup>a</sup>Reaction Conditions: 2-arylamino-2-phenylacetamide 4 in 6N HCl at 100 °C for a given time. <sup>b</sup>Isolated Yield.

#### Characterization data for synthesized compounds:

#### N-tert-butyl-2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (4a)

White solid, ESI MS (*m*/*z*) = 283 (M+H).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.49 (s, 9H), 4.49 (s, 1H, NH) 4.95 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.57 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (m, 3H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 29.0, 49.6, 63.3, 112.7, 118.4, 127.4, 127.8, 127.8, 128.0, 128.8, 128.9, 139.2, 145.8, 169.7. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C 76.56, H 7.85, N 9.92, Found : C 76.42, H 7.97, N 9.81.

#### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)acetamide (4b)

White solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 373 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.13-1.28 (m, 5H), 1.45 (t, J = 4.31 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (t, J = 10.6 Hz, 2H), 3.39-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.13 (s, 1H, NH), 4.43 (s, 1H, CH), 6.03 (s, 1H, NH), 6.76 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 7.06 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 25.2, 26.3, 32.8, 49.6, 55.3, 61.6, 114.1, 115.1, 128.6, 129.0, 133.1, 135.8, 140.9, 153.8, 169.5. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 67.64, H 6.76, N 7.51, Found : C 67.77, H 6.52, N 7.40.

#### N-tert-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)acetamide (4c)

White solid, mp- 126-128 °C ESI MS (m/z) = 347 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MH; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$ :1.49 (s, 9H), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.45 (s. 1H, NH), 4.91 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.74 (dd, J = 6.6, 6.6 Hz, 4H), 7.06 (dd, J = 6.4, 6.3 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 28.9, 49.6, 55.3, 63.1, 114.1, 114.5, 128.3, 128.5, 133.1, 137.0, 140.6, 153.8, 168.8. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 65.79, H 6.68, N 8.08, Found : C 65.86, H 6.78, N 7.98.

## N-cyclohexyl-2-(2,4-dimethylphenylamino)-2-phenylacetamide (4d)

Yellow solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 337 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  :1.18-1.47 (m, 6H), 1.68 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 4H), 2.28 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.59-3.79 (m, 1H), 4.07 (s, 1H, NH), 4.53 (s, 1H, CH), 6.03 (s, 1H, NH), 6.35 (d, J =3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 6.09 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 4.71 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 5.52 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 18.3, 20.5, 25.2, 26.3, 32.8, 49.8, 62.4, 113.2, 122.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.9, 130.8, 132.0, 139.1, 142.6, 170.2. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O, C 78.53, H 8.39, N 8.33, Found : C 78.68, H 8.47, N 8.21.

#### N-tert-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenylamino)acetamide (4e)

White solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 351 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.48 (s, 9H), 4.45 (s, 1H, NH), 4.98 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.55 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06-7.16 (m, 6H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 29.0, 49.6, 63.4, 113.8, 123.9, 128.3, 128.5, 128.9, 129.3, 133.1, 137.0, 144.3, 168.8. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O, C 61.55, H 5.74, N 7.97, Found: C 61.46, H 5.82, N 7.88.

### N-tert-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenylamino)-2-phenylacetamide (4f)

White solid, ESI MS (*m*/*z*) = 317 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.49 (s, 9H), 4.19 (s, 1H, NH), 4.73 (s, 1H, CH), 6.08 (s, 1H, NH), 6.56 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 28.8, 49.6, 63.8, 113.5, 123.9, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.9, 129.3, 139.0, 144.5, 169.3. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O, C 68.24, H 6.68, N 8.84, Found : C 68.14, H 6.76, N 8.96.

#### 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-tert-butyl-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)acetamide (4g)

White solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 391(M+H),.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$ : 1.48 (s, 9H), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.59 (s, 1H, NH), 4.85 (s, 1H, CH), 6.09 (s, 1H, NH), 6.74-6.83 (m, 4H), 6.90 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 29.1, 49.6, 55.3, 63.6, 114.2, 114.5, 121.8, 128.7, 131.6, 137.7, 140.6, 153.8, 169.8. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 58.32, H 5.92, N 7.16, Found : C 58.21, H 6.02, N 7.28.

#### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N-cyclohexyl-2-(3-methoxyphenylamino)acetamide (4h)

White solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 373 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.10-1.39 (m, 5H), 1.35 (t, J = 4.3 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.39-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.50 (s, 1H, NH), 5.01 (s, 1H, CH), 6.03 (s, 1H, NH), 6.78 (d, J =8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.01 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J =5.6 Hz, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 25.2, 26.3, 32.8, 49.7, 55.4, 61.3, 101.1, 104.3, 106.1, 128.6, 129.4, 133.1, 135.8, 147.3, 159.6, 169.8. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 67.64, H 6.76, N 7.51, Found : C 67.77, H 6.84, N 7.41.

#### N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-2-phenylacetamide (4i)

White solid, MS (m/z) = 339 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.27-1.61 (m, 7H), 1.65 (t, J = 11.7 Hz, 3H), 3.41-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.39 (s, 1H, NH), 4.73 (s, 1H, CH), 6.03 (s, 1H, NH), 6.76-6.83 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 25.3, 26.4, 32.7, 49.8, 55.2, 62.5, 114.2, 115.2, 128.0, 128.1, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 138.3, 141.3, 153.8, 169.9. Analysis calculated for: C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 74.52, H 7.74, N 8.28, Found : C 74.60, H 7.67, N 8.36.

### N-tert-butyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dimethylphenylamino)acetamide (4j)

Yellow solid, MS (m/z) = 345 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.51 (s, 9H), 2.28 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.23 (s, 1H, NH), 4.98 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 9.27 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.14 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 18.5, 20.5, 29.0, 49.5, 63.7, 112.9, 122.8, 127.8, 128.2, 128.7, 130.8, 132.0, 133.1, 137.5, 141.7, 169.1. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O, C 69.65, H 7.31, N 8.12, Found : C 69.77, H 7.21, N 8.11.

#### N-tert-butyl-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (4k)

White solid, MS (m/z) = 343 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ H : 1.48 (s, 9H), 3.75, (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>) 4.40 (s, 1H, NH), 4.95 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.29 (s, 2H), 6.47 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ C : 29.0, 49.3, 55.2, 63.4, 99.5, 104.8, 112.2, 118.4, 128.8, 143.1, 146.1, 161.5, 168.8 . Analysis calculated for : C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, C 70.15, H 7.65, N 8.18, Found : C 70.28, H 7.52, N 8.28.

#### N-cyclohexyl-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (4l)

White solid, MS (m/z) = 369 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.29-1.49 (m, 5H), 1.50-171(m, 5H), 3.40-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.74, (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.76 (s, 1H, NH), 5.05 (s, 1H, CH), 5.83 (s, 1H, NH), 6.29 (s, 2H), 6.47 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.59-6.70 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz:CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 25.2, 26.3, 32.8, 50.0, 55,2, 99.5, 104.7, 112.7, 118.4, 128.8, 142.5, 146.7, 161.2, 169.1. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, C 71.71, H 7.66, N 7.60, Found : C 71.62, H 7.76, N 7.51.

### 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-tert-butyl-2-(3-methoxyphenylamino)acetamide (4m)

White solid, MS (*m*/*z*) = 391 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.49 (s, 9H), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.39 (s, 1H, NH), 4.93 (s, 1H, CH), 5.78 (s, 1H, NH), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 6.3 Hz, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 28.9, 49.4, 55.3, 62.1, 114.1, 114.3, 121.4, 126.6, 130.0, 130.1, 141.7, 141.8, 159.8, 168.5. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 58.32, H 5.92, N 7.16, Found : C 58.42, H 5.81, N 7.27.

#### N-tert-butyl-2-(4-fluorophenylamino)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (4n)

White solid, MS (m/z) = 331 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.49 (s, 9H), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.50 (s, 1H, NH), 4.92 (s, 1H, CH), 5.96 (s, 1H, NH), 6.47 (s, 2H), 6.82 (m, 4H), 7.07 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H),  $, ^{13}$ C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 29.0, 49.6, 55.1, 64.6, 113.8, 114.3, 114.4, 115.4, 115.6, 128.3, 129.7, 134.3, 141.2, 141.3, 153.2, 160.8, 169.4 . Analysis calculated for : C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, C 69.07, H 7.02, N 8.48, Found : C 68.98, H 6.98, N 8.55.

#### 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-tert-butyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (40)

Pale Yellow solid, MS (*m*/*z*) = 361 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 1.50 (s, 9H), 4.50 (s, 1H, NH), 4.69 (s, 1H, CH), 6.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.57 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 29.1, 49.6, 63.3, 112.7, 118.4, 121.8, 128.7, 128.8, 131.6, 137.7, 145.5, 169.5. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O, C 59.84, H 5.86, N 7.75, Found : C 59.96, H 5.75, N 7.67.

#### 2-Phenyl-2-(phenylamino)acetic acid (5a)

White solid, ESI MS (*m*/*z*) = 228 (M+H). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm H}$ : 4.33 (s, 1H, NH), 4.92 (s, 1H, CH), 6.29 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.35 (m, 5H), 8.35 (s, 1H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm C}$ : 60.3, 114.2, 118.4, 127.19, 127.7, 128.1, 128.3, 128.9, 129.3, 136.5, 145.8, 169.4. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, C 73.99, H 5.77, N 6.16, Found : C 74.09, H 5.62, N 6.25.

#### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)acetic acid (5b)

White Solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 292 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm H}$ : 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.48 (s, 1H, NH), 4.80 (s, 1H, CH), 6.51 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 8.30 (s, 1H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm C}$ : 55.3, 59.6, 115.3, 116.1, 128.5, 128.8, 129.2, 130.3, 133.6, 135.7, 141.4, 153.8, 170.3. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub>, C 61.76, H 4.84, N 4.80, Found : C 61.85, H 4.73, N 4.93.

### 2-(2,4-Dimethylphenylamino)-2-phenylacetic acid (5c)

White solid, ESI MS (m/z) = 256 (M+H), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  : 2.25 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.30 (s, 1H, NH), 4.90 (s, 1H, CH), 6.04 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.35 (m, 5H), 8.35 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm C}$  : 18.2, 20.5, 60.7, 113.8, 121.7, 127.9, 128.1, 128.8, 129.0, 130.8, 132.7, 137.94, 142.8, 168.7. Analysis calculated for : C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, C 75.27, H 6.71, N 5.49, Found : C 75.37, H 6.62, N 5.58.











Fig. (4d)



Fig. (4e)

















Fig. (4k)





Fig. (4m)







Fig. (40)





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Fig. (5b)

