

Organocatalysis by aprotic imidazolium zwitterion: A dramatic anion–cation cooperative effect on azide–nitrile cycloaddition

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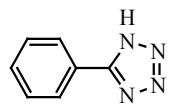
General: Melting points were determined on a glass disk with an electrical bath and are uncorrected. ^1H NMR spectra were determined on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in DMSO- d_6 . Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ) and are referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard and the signals were reported as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet) and coupling constants J were given in Hz. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl_3 and DMSO- d_6 solution. TLC was done on silica gel coated glass slide (Merck, Silica gel G for TLC). IR spectra were taken as KBr plates. Commercially available substrates were freshly distilled before the reaction. Solvents, reagents and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich, Fluka, Merck, SRL, Spectrochem and Process Chemicals. All reactions involving moisture sensitive reactants were executed using oven dried glassware. Zwitterions were prepared using our reported method.¹

Typical procedure for the synthesis of 5-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole:

In a 50 mL round bottom flask benzonitrile nitrile (103 mg, 1 mmol), and NaN_3 (98 mg, 1.5 mmol) were taken in presence of zwitterionic-salt (22 mg, 10 mol%) and the whole mixture was stirred at 120 °C (oil bath) for 12h. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture, being cooled to room temperature was treated with 4 M HCl (20 mL) and stirred vigorously. The solid product was filtered under suction and then recrystallized from hot ethanol to obtain the pure product. The identity and purity of the product was confirmed by ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic analysis.

Spectral and analytical data of all synthesized tetrazoles are presented in order of their entries (Table 2):

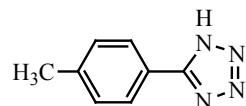
5-Phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole (3a):²



White solid, Yield: 123 mg, 84%; mp. 211-212 °C,

IR (KBr): 3207, 3000, 1611, 1562, 1493, 1466, 688 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.07-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 155.2, 131.2, 129.4, 126.9, 124.1.

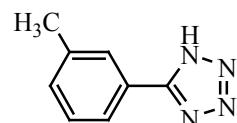
5-*p*-Tolyl-1*H*-tetrazole (3b):³



White solid, Yield: 131 mg, 82%; mp. 251-252 °C;

IR (KBr): 3440, 1595, 1562, 1485, 1412 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 155.3, 141.2, 129.9, 126.9, 121.2, 21.0.

5-*m*-Tolyl-1*H*-tetrazole (3c):⁵

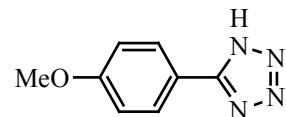


Off white solid, Yield: 130 mg, 81%; mp. 143-144 °C;

IR (KBr): 3442, 1598, 1563, 1484, 1411 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ 155.2, 138.8, 131.9, 129.3, 127.4, 124.1, 124.0, 20.9.

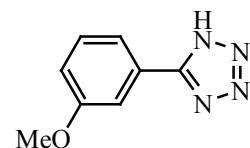
5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3d):²



White solid, Yield: 134 mg, 76%; mp. 231-233 °C.

IR (KBr): 3200, 1298, 1184, 1035, 750 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.98 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.0 Hz), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ 161.5, 154.7, 128.6, 116.3, 114.8, 55.4.

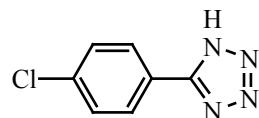
5-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3e):⁶



White solid, Yield: 132 mg, 75%, mp. 156-158 °C;

IR (KBr): 3199, 3161, 3043, 2985, 1325, 1280, 1153, 1041, 858, 742 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.63-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ 159.7, 155.2, 130.6, 125.3, 119.2, 117.0, 112.1, 55.4.

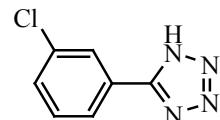
5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3f):³



White solid, Yield: 130 mg, 72%; mp. 261-263 °C;

IR (KBr): 3419, 2927, 1602, 1457, 1383, 1055, 765 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 150.1, 138.5, 134.1, 129.7, 129.4, 128.3.

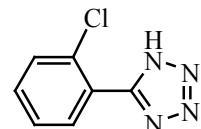
5-(3-Chlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3g):³



White solid, Yield: 131 mg, 73%; mp. 137-138 °C;

IR (KBr): 3407, 2915, 2796, 2720, 1599, 1459, 1439, 1390, 1158, 1089, 1055, 870, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 154.8, 134.0, 131.4, 131.0, 126.6, 126.3, 125.6.

5-(2-Chlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3h):³

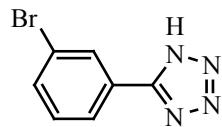


White solid, Yield: 130 mg, 72%; mp. 179-181 °C

IR (KBr): 3402, 2930, 1689, 1450, 1160, 1050, 760 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.81 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.6 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0, *J*₂ = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dt, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz,

$J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dt, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 152.3, 131.6, 131.0, 130.7, 129.4, 126.8, 123.1.

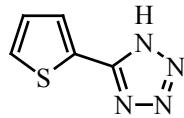
5-(3-Bromophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3i):⁴



White solid, Yield: 168 mg, 75%; mp. 146-147 °C;

IR (KBr): 3424, 3066, 1714, 1604, 1557, 1092, 797 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 16.67 (br, 1H), 8.22-8.21 (m, 1H), 8.06 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.92$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 155.1, 134.3, 132.0, 129.8, 127.0, 126.4, 122.8.

5-(Thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-tetrazole (3j):



White solid, Yield: 123 mg, 81%; mp. 195 °C;

IR (KBr): 3076, 2950, 1759, 1593, 1505, 961, 718 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 16.88 (br, 1H), 7.90-7.89 (d, $J = 5.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.80 (d, $J = 3.64$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J = 4.04$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 151.7, 130.8, 129.6, 129.0, 125.8. Anal. Cald. for C₅H₄N₄S: C, 39.46; H, 2.65; N, 36.82%. Found: C, 39.41; H, 2.58; N, 36.76%.

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