## **Supporting Information**

# Iron-Mediated Synthesis of Isoxazoles from Alkynes: Using Iron(III) Nitrate as Nitration and Cyclization Reagent

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**Table S1.** Optimization of conditions on Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-mediated synthesis of methyl-3-benzoylisoxazole-5-<br/>carboxylate (**4a**) from phenylacetylene (**1a**) and methyl propiolate (**2a**)<sup>a</sup> $\circ$  $\circ$  $\circ$  $\circ$ 

		(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> .9H <sub>2</sub> O Ph	· +	Ph	∕ ──Ph
Pn-C	CH + — OCH₃ ad	ditive, solvent	Ñ-0́ОСН₃	Ň	-0
1a	2a	temp., <i>N</i> <sub>2</sub>	4a	3a	
Entry	Nitrogent reagent	Solvent	Additive	Temp	Yield of
	(mmol)		(mmol)	(°C)	$4a (\%)^{\circ}$
1	$Pd(OAc)_2/NaNO_3$ (0.06/1.2)	THF	KI(0.3)	60	Trace
2	AuCl <sub>3</sub> /NaNO <sub>3</sub> (0.06/1.2)	THF	KI(0.3)	60	Trace
3	$Zn(NO_3)_2$	THF	KI(0.3)	60	Trace
4	$\frac{(1.2)}{\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2}$	THF	KI(0.3)	60	Trace
5	(1.2) Ni(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O (1.2)	THF	KI(0.3)	60	Trace
6	$Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$	THF	KI(0.3)	60	36
7	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	THF	KI (0.3)	60	43
8		THF	KI (0.3)	60	Trace
9	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	PhCN	KI (0.3)	70	57
10	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc	KI (0.3)	70	58
11	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	MeCN	KI (0.3)	70	50
12	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	DMF	KI (0.3)	70	Trace
13	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	DMSO	KI (0.3)	70	Trace
14	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	KI (0.3)	60	Trace
15	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	Dioxane	KI (0.3)	70	47
16	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN( 1/1)	KI (0.3)	70	67
17	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN (1/1)	KI (0.06)	70	50
18	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN (1/1)	KI (0.15)	70	54
19	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN (1/1)	KI (0.45)	70	69
20	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN (1/1)		70	49
21	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (1.2)	EtOAc/PhCN (1/1)	L-Proline (0.3)	70	47

22	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	Ph <sub>3</sub> P	70	47
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.3)	70	7/
23	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	$K_3PO_4$	70	51
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.3)	70	
24	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	<i>t</i> -BuCN	70	58
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.3)	70	50
25	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	t-BuCN/I <sub>2</sub>	70	61
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.3)	70	
26	Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ·9H <sub>2</sub> O	EtOAc/PhCN	<i>t</i> -BuCN/KI	70	76
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.3)		/0
27	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	t-BuCN/KI	70	62
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.15)	70	
$28^b$	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	t-BuCN/KI	70	60
	(1.2)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.3)	70	
29 <sup>c</sup>	$Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$	PhCN		60	61
	(0.6)			00	
30	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	t-BuCN/KI	70	50
	(0.9)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.3)		
31	$Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$	EtOAc/PhCN	t-BuCN/KI	70	40
	(0.3)	(1/1)	(0.6/0.3)		40

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction condition: **1a** (0.3 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (1.2 mmol), additive, solvent (1 mL), reaction time (12 h) under nitrogen atmosphere. <sup>*b*</sup> In air. <sup>*c*</sup> **1a** (0.45 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mmol), PhCN (1.5 mL), reaction time (2.5 h) at 60 °C under nitrogen atmosphere [note: (1) condition **d** was based on the copper-catalyzed conditions in the reference (*Org. Chem. Front.* **2017**, *4*, 445), but the substrate **1a** is added only once instead of dropwise addition by using a syringe pumping for 2.5 h; (2) 29% of byproduct **3a** was obtained under condition **d**].



Figure S1. ESI-HRMS spectrogram of reaction mixture of 1a and 2a<sup>*a*</sup> (positive ion).

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction condition: **1a** (1.5 mmol), **2a** (3 mmol), Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (6 mmol), KI (1.5 mmol), *t*-BuCN (3 mmol), EtOAc/PhCN (2.5 mL/2.5 mL), reaction time (30 min) at 70 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting solution is concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was used for the ESI-HRMS test.



#### Figure S2. ESI-HRMS spectrogram of reaction mixture of 1a and 2a<sup>*a*</sup> (negative ion).

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction condition: **1a** (1.5 mmol), **2a** (3 mmol),  $Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$  (6 mmol), KI (1.5 mmol), *t*-BuCN (3 mmol), EtOAc/PhCN (2.5 mL/2.5 mL), reaction time (30 min) at 70 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting solution is concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was used for the ESI-HRMS test.

Scheme S1. Control experiments about self-coupling and cyclizing of aromatic terminal alkynes



Condition A: Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (2.25 mmol), KI (0.75 mmol), THF (5 mL), reaction temperature (60  $^{\circ}$ C), reaction time (16 h) under nitrogen atmosphere; Condition B: NaNO<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv), KI (1.5 equiv), acetic acid as solvent, reaction time (3h) at 85  $^{\circ}$ C in air; Condition C: Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (0.9 mmol), KI (0.3 mmol), THF (2 mL), reaction temperature (60  $^{\circ}$ C), reaction time (16 h) under nitrogen atmosphere.

#### Reference

(1) Yusubov, M. S.; Perederina, I. A.; Filimonov, V. D.; Park, T. -H.; Chi, K. -W. Synth. Commun. 1998, 28, 833.

(2) Sarkar, R.; Mukherjee, S. Org. Lett. 2016, 18, 6160.



































10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0 fl (ppm)





11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0 fl (ppm)





fl (ppm)









11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0 -1.5 fl (ppm)



































11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0 fl (ppm)



















fl (ppm)





