

Supporting Information

Chromium-Catalyzed Activation of Acyl C–O Bonds with Magnesium for Amidation of Esters with Nitroarenes

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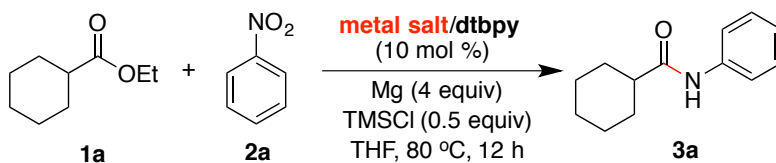
1. Materials and Methods

General. All reactions dealing with air- or moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out in a flame-dried, sealed Schlenk reaction tube under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on glass plates coated with 0.25 mm 230–400 mesh silica gel containing a fluorescent indicator (Merck). Flash silica gel column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60N (spherical and neutral, 140–325 mesh) as described by Still.¹ NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer and reported in parts per million. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz in CDCl₃ were referenced internally to tetramethylsilane as a standard, and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz and referenced to the solvent resonance. Analytical gas chromatography (GC) was carried out on a Thermo Trace 1300 gas chromatograph, equipped with a flame ionization detector. Mass spectra (GC-MS) were taken at Thermo Trace 1300 gas chromatograph mass spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on the Exactive Mass Spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, USA) equipped with ESI ionization source. Melting points were determined with a Hanon MP-300. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectrum was recorded on an instrument of Bruker A300-9.5/12.

Materials. Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Aldrich Inc., Alfa Aesar, Adamas, and other commercial suppliers and used as received. Solvents were dried over sodium (for THF and ether) by refluxing for overnight and freshly distilled prior to use. CrCl₂ (99.99%), CrCl₃ (99.99%), CoCl₂ (99.9%), FeCl₂ (98%) and Mg (99.99 %) were purchased from Aldrich Inc. and used as received. Cr(acac)₃ (97%) and NiCl₂ were purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received.

2. Optimizing Reaction Parameters

Table S1. Investigation of the Effect of First-Row Transition Metal Salts on the Amidation of Ester^a

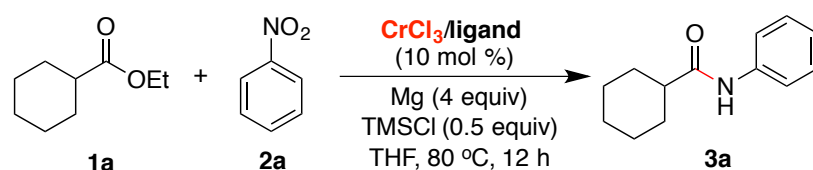


Entry	Metal salt	Yield (3a)
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1	-	19%
2	CrCl ₂	59%
3	CrCl ₃	60%
4	Cr(acac) ₃	0
5	Cr(CO) ₆	0
6	Cr(OAc) ₃	0
7	FeCl ₂	0
8	FeCl ₃	0
9	CoCl ₂	0
10	NiCl ₂	0

^aConditions: **1a** (0.8 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), metal salt (0.04 mmol), Mg (1.6 mmol), TMSCl (0.2 mmol), dtbpy (0.04 mmol), THF (1 mL), 80°C, 12 h. Isolated yields were given.

Table S2. Studying the Effect of Ligand on the Amidation of Ester^a



Entry	Ligand	Yield (3a)
1	—	46%
2	L1	49%
3	L2	56%
4	L3	60%
5	L4	51%
6	L5	51%
7	L6	56%

L1

L2

L3

L4

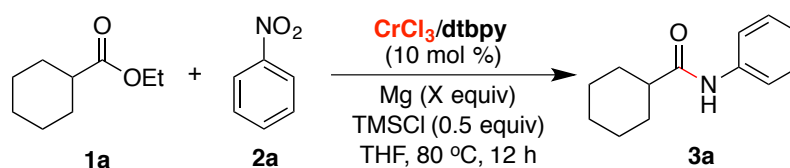
L5

L6

^aConditions: **1a** (0.8 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (0.04 mmol), Mg (1.6 mmol), TMSCl (0.2 mmol),

ligand (0.04 mmol), THF (1 mL), 80°C, 12 h. Isolated yields were given.

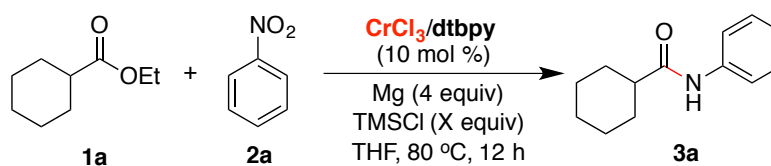
Table S3. Studying the Effect of the Amount of Mg on the Cr-Catalyzed Amidation of 1a^a



Entry	Mg (X equiv)	Yield (3a)
1	–	0
2	1	0
3	2	0
4	3	trace
5	4	60%
6	5	61%
7	Zn (4 equiv)	0
8	Mn (4 equiv)	0

^aConditions: **1a** (0.8 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), metal salt (0.04 mmol), Mg (X mmol), TMSCl (0.2 mmol), dtbpy (0.04 mmol), THF (1 mL), 80°C, 12 h. Isolated yields were given.

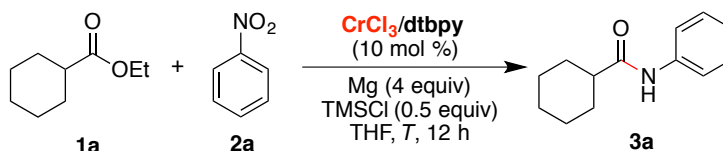
Table S4. Studying the Effect of the Amount of TMSCl on the Cr-Catalyzed Amidation of 1a^a



Entry	TMSCl (X equiv)	Yield (3a)
1	0	0
2	0.5	60%
3	1	75%
4	1.5	75%
5	2	76%

^aConditions: **1a** (0.8 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (0.04 mmol), Mg (1.6 mmol), TMSCl (X mmol), dtbpy (0.04 mmol), THF (1 mL), 80°C, 12 h. Isolated yields were given.

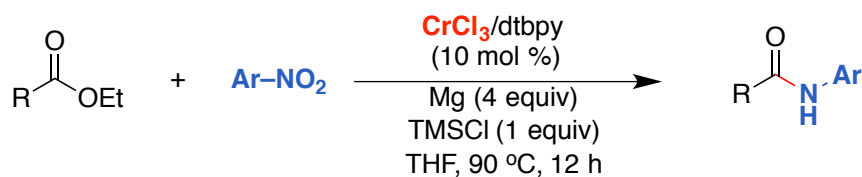
Table S5. Studying the Effect of Temperature on the Cr-Catalyzed Amidation of 1a^a



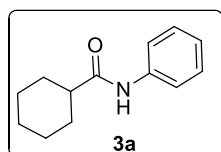
Entry	T/°C	Yield (3a)
1	60	0
2	70	<10%
3	80	75%
4	90	82%
5	100	83%

^aConditions: **1a** (0.8 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (0.04 mmol), Mg (1.6 mmol), TMSCl (0.4 mmol), dtbpy (0.04 mmol), THF (1 mL), 12 h. Isolated yields were given.

3. General Procedure for Cr-Catalyzed Reductive Amidation of Esters with Nitroarenes

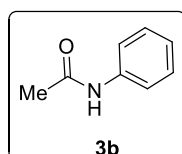


A dried Schlenk tube was charged with ester (0.8 mmol), nitroarene (0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), and TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol) followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl aqueous (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product.

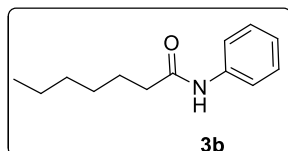


The general procedure was applied to ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene

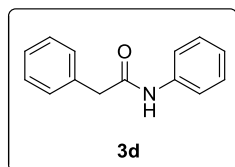
(49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (67 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.61 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 1.82–1.79 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.20 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 174.8, 138.3, 129.0, 124.1, 112.0, 46.5, 29.7, 25.7. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈ON [M+H]⁺ 204.1388, Found: 204.1387.



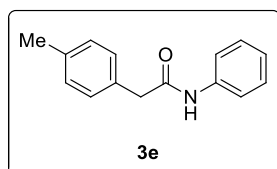
The general procedure was applied to ethyl acetate (70 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (36 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.58–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 168.7, 138.0, 129.1, 124.4, 120.1, 24.7. Calcd for C₈H₉ONNa [M+Na]⁺ 158.0582, Found: 158.0582.



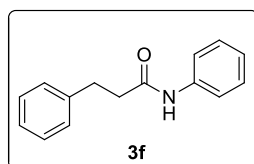
The general procedure was applied to ethyl heptanoate (126 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (58 mg, 71% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.65 (br s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.74–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.25 (m, 6H), 0.90–0.86 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 172.0, 138.1, 129.0, 124.3, 120.1, 37.9, 31.7, 29.1, 25.8, 22.6, 14.1. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₉ONNa[M+Na]⁺ 228.1364, Found: 228.1366.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-phenylacetate* (131 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 81% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.42–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 6H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 169.4, 137.7, 134.5, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 127.8, 124.6, 120.0, 44.9. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 212.1075, Found: 212.1074.

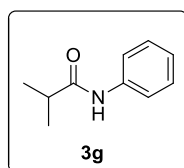


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-(p-tolyl)acetate* (142 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (60 mg, 67% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.43 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (br s, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 169.6, 137.8, 137.5, 131.5, 130.0, 129.52, 129.0, 124.5, 119.9, 44.5, 21.2. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 248.1051, Found: 248.1051.

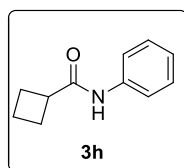


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 3-phenylpropanoate* (142 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (66 mg, 73% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.48 (br s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.26 (m,

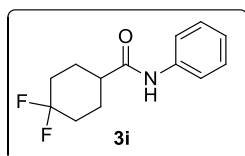
4H), 7.22 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.03 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.65 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 170.8, 140.7, 137.9, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 126.5, 124.4, 120.2, 39.4, 31.7$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 248.1051, Found: 248.1048.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl isobutyrate* (93 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (47 mg, 72% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.59$ (br s, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dt, $J = 13.7, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 175.7, 138.2, 129.0, 124.2, 120.1, 36.7, 19.7$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 186.0895, Found: 186.0900.

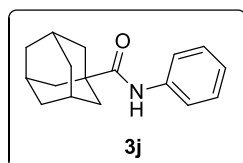


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclobutanecarboxylate* (102 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (55 mg, 78% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.54$ (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (br s, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (p, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.29 (m, 2H), 2.25–2.14 (m, 2H), 2.03–1.85 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 173.6, 138.2, 129.0, 124.2, 119.9, 40.9, 25.4, 18.2$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 198.0895, Found: 198.0894.

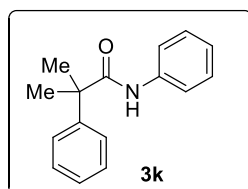


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 4,4-difluorocyclohexanecarboxylate* (154 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg,

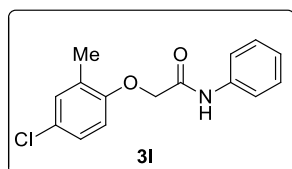
0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (60 mg, 63% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.50 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (t, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 2H), 2.06–1.89 (m, 4H), 1.85–1.71 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 172.4, 137.8, 129.2, 124.7, 120.0, 43.9, 32.91 (t, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 250 Hz), 26.13, 26.03; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -92.75, -93.38, -100.48, -101.10. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{ONNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ 262.1019, Found: 262.1018.



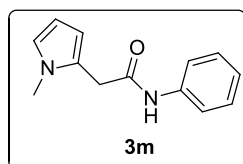
The general procedure was applied to *Ethyl adamantane-1-carboxylate* (166 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (71 mg, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.54 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (br s, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.96 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 6H), 1.81–1.70 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 176.2, 138.2, 129.0, 124.2, 120.1, 41.6, 39.4, 36.5, 28.2. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{ONNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ 278.1521, Found: 278.1524.



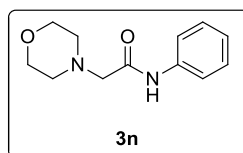
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoate* (154 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (67 mg, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.45–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.01 (m, 1H), 6.83 (br s, 1H), 1.66 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 175.7, 144.6, 138.0, 129.1, 128.9, 127.5, 126.5, 124.2, 119.7, 48.1, 27.1. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{ONNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ 262.1208, Found: 262.1208.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)acetate* (183 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (54 mg, 49% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.26 (br s, 1H), 7.60–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.13 (m, 3H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.1, 153.9, 136.8, 131.2, 129.3, 128.5, 127.2, 127.1, 125.1, 120.1, 113.1, 68.1, 16.4. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{ONClNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 298.0611, Found: 298.0617.

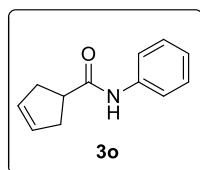


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetate* (133 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (46 mg, 54% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.42 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.70–6.65 (m, 1H), 6.17–6.14 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.3, 137.6, 129.1, 125.5, 124.6, 123.7, 119.8, 109.8, 107.8, 36.1, 34.0. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 237.1004, Found: 237.1002.

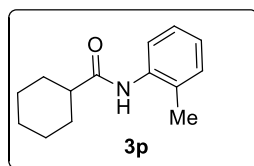


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-morpholinoacetate* (138 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (49 mg, 56% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 9.05 (br s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.9

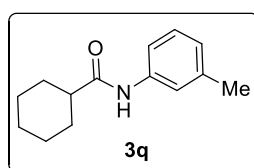
Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.82–3.73 (m, 4H), 3.14 (s, 2H), 2.65–2.59 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.0, 137.6, 129.2, 124.5, 119.6, 67.2, 62.6, 53.9$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 243.1109$, Found: 243.1115.



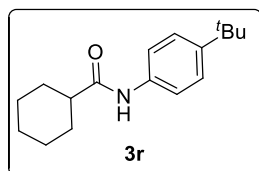
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclopent-3-enecarboxylate* (112 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (46 mg, 62% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.74$ (br s, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 3.16–3.08 (m, 1H), 2.78–2.62 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.7, 138.2, 129.3, 129.0, 124.2, 120.1, 44.4, 37.2$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 210.0895$, Found: 210.0889.



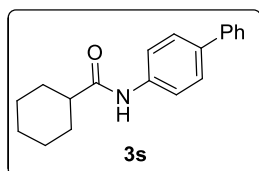
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 2-nitrotoluene (55 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (54 mg, 62% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.74$ (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.11 (m, 3H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.32–2.25 (m, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.96 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.87–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.70 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.37–1.21 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.5, 135.8, 130.4, 129.4, 126.7, 125.1, 123.5, 46.3, 29.9, 25.8, 17.8$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 240.1364$, Found: 240.1361.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 3-nitrotoluene (55 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (73 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.65 (br s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.27–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.92 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.60–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.31–1.20 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 174.8, 138.8, 138.2, 128.8, 124.9, 120.7, 117.0, 46.5, 29.7, 25.8, 25.7, 21.5. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₉ONNa [M+Na]⁺ 240.1364, Found: 240.1389.

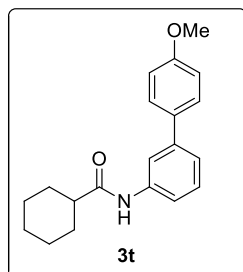


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-tert-butyl-4-nitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (75 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.26–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.86–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.60–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.30–1.24 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 174.6, 147.1, 135.7, 125.8, 119.7, 46.5, 34.4, 31.5, 29.8, 25.8. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₇H₂₅ONNa [M+Na]⁺ 282.1834, Found: 282.1837.

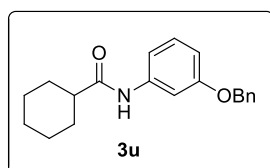


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-nitrobiphenyl (80 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white

solid (75 mg, 67% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.61 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.51 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 2H), 2.29–2.22 (m, 1H), 1.97 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 2H), 1.73–1.70 (m, 1H), 1.61–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.25 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 174.6, 140.6, 137.5, 137.1, 128.9, 127.7, 127.2, 127.0, 120.2, 46.7, 29.8, 25.8. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 280.1701, Found: 280.1704.

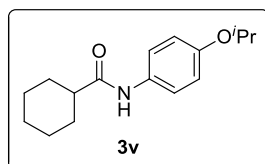


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4'-Methoxy-3-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl (92 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (100 mg, 81% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.61 (br s, 1H), 7.52–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (dd, J = 9.5, 2.7 Hz, 2H), 1.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.60–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.31–1.20 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 174.9, 159.3, 141.7, 138.7, 133.3, 129.3, 128.2, 122.5, 118.3, 118.2, 114.2, 55.4, 46.6, 29.8, 25.8, 25.7. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 332.1626, Found: 332.1626.

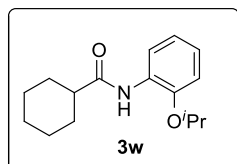


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-nitro-3-phenylmethoxybenzene (92 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (87 mg, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.61 (br s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.42–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 2.27–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (dd, J =

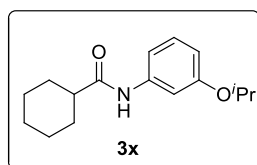
9.3, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.59–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.30–1.22 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.9, 159.4, 139.6, 137.0, 129.7, 128.6, 127.98, 127.6, 112.2, 111.0, 106.4, 70.0, 46.6, 29.7, 25.7, 25.7$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 332.1626, Found: 332.1618.



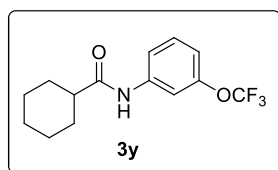
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-nitro-4-propan-2-yloxybenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (74 mg, 71% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.42\text{--}7.37$ (m, 2H), 7.21 (br s, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.47 (dq, $J = 12.1, 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.24–2.16 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.86–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.69 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.57–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.28 (dd, $J = 16.3, 7.6$ Hz, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.4, 154.6, 131.2, 121.8, 116.5, 70.5, 46.5, 29.8, 25.8, 22.2$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 284.1626, Found: 284.1623.



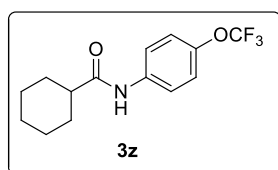
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 2-Isopropoxynitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (47 mg, 45% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.46\text{--}8.35$ (m, 1H), 7.91 (br s, 1H), 7.00–6.96 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.58 (dt, $J = 12.1, 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.30–2.23 (m, 1H), 1.99 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.87–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.66 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.22 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.1, 146.2, 128.9, 123.4, 121.1, 119.9, 112.8, 71.5, 46.8, 29.8, 25.9, 25.8, 22.4$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 284.1626, Found: 284.1620.



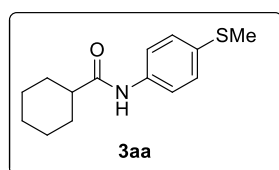
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-isopropoxy-3-nitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (66 mg, 63% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.59 (br s, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, J = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.55–4.46 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.18 (m, 1H), 1.91 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 1.81–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.56–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.26 (dd, J = 22.7, 7.6 Hz, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 174.8, 158.5, 139.6, 129.6, 112.0, 111.8, 107.4, 70.0, 46.6, 29.7, 25.8, 25.7, 22.1. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 284.1626, Found: 284.1629.



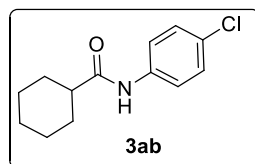
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 3-(Trifluoromethoxy)nitrobenzene (83 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (91 mg, 79% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.16 (br s, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.30–2.22 (m, 1H), 1.91 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 1.83–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.67 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.58–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.29–1.15 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 175.4, 149.6, 149.6, 139.8, 129.9, 118.1, 116.2, 112.99, 46.5, 29.7, 25.7, 25.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -57.82. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{F}_3\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 310.1031, Found: 310.1035.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-Nitro-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (83 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (87 mg, 76% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.71 (br s, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.90 (t, J = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.85–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.62 (m, 1H), 1.56–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.17 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 175.0, 145.2, 136.9, 121.8, 121.2, 46.5, 29.7, 25.7; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -58.20. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂F₃NNa [M+Na]⁺ 310.1031, Found: 310.1032.

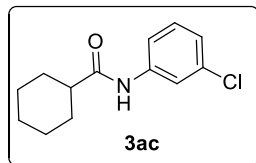


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-Nitrothioanisole (68 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (72 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.46 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.25–2.18 (m, 1H), 1.92 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.57–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.20 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 174.6, 135.9, 133.3, 128.1, 120.6, 46.5, 29.7, 25.7, 16.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₉OSNNa [M+Na]⁺ 272.1085, Found: 272.1084.

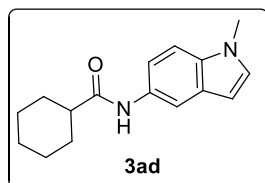


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-Chloronitrobenzene (63 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (59 mg, 62% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (br s,

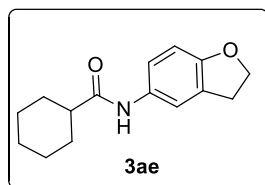
1H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 2H), 2.25–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.93 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.83 (dd, $J = 9.6, 2.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.70 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.57–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.24 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.6, 136.8, 129.1, 121.2, 120.0, 46.6, 29.7, 25.8, 25.8$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{ONClNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 260.0818$, Found: 260.0817.



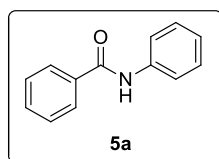
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 3-Chloronitrobenzene (63 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (62 mg, 65% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.77$ (br s, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 8.1, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.27–2.22 (m, 1H), 1.91 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.81–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.71–1.63 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.31–1.18 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 175.1, 139.5, 134.6, 130.0, 124.2, 120.2, 118.0, 46.5, 29.7, 25.7, 25.7$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{ONClNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 260.0818$, Found: 260.0814.



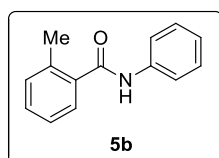
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-methyl-5-nitroindole (70 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 66% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.83$ (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (br s, 1H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.97 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.87–1.79 (m, 2H), 1.73–1.67 (m, 1H), 1.62–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.36–1.23 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 174.5, 134.2, 130.5, 129.6, 128.6, 116.0, 112.8, 109.3, 101.1, 46.5, 33.0, 29.9, 25.9$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{ON}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 279.1473$, Found: 279.1478.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl cyclohexanecarboxylate* (125 mg, 0.8 mmol), 5-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran (66 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (46 mg, 47% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.32 (br s, 1H), 7.01 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (tt, J = 11.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 1.86–1.77 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.57–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.26 (dd, J = 14.0, 8.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 174.5, 156.9, 131.1, 127.6, 120.4, 118.4, 109.0, 71.5, 46.4, 30.0, 29.8, 25.8. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 268.1313, Found: 268.1309.

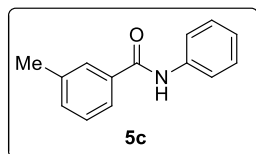


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (70 mg, 89% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.93 (br s, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 5.3, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.12 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.0, 138.0, 135.1, 132.0, 129.2, 128.9, 127.2, 124.7, 120.4. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 198.0919, Found: 198.0915.

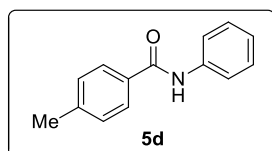


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl 2-methylbenzoate* (131 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column

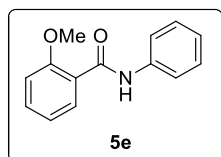
chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 81% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.30 (dd, J = 8.9, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.3, 138.1, 136.5, 131.4, 130.4, 129.2, 126.7, 126.0, 124.7, 120.0, 19.9. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 212.1075, Found: 212.1077.



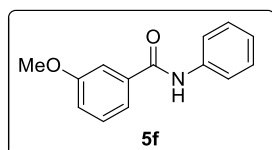
The general procedure was applied to ethyl 3-methylbenzoate (131 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (57 mg, 67% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.21 (br s, 1H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 4H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 4H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.3, 138.6, 138.1, 135.0, 132.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.0, 124.5, 124.1, 120.5, 21.4. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 212.1075, Found: 212.1072.



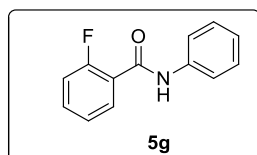
The general procedure was applied to ethyl 4-methylbenzoate (131 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (57 mg, 68% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.08 (br s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.0, 142.4, 138.2, 132.2, 129.5, 129.1, 127.2, 124.5, 120.4, 21.6. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 212.1075, Found: 212.1076.



The general procedure was applied to ethyl 2-methoxybenzoate (144 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (55 mg, 61% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.82 (br s, 1H), 8.29 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 163.3, 157.2, 138.5, 133.3, 132.5, 129.0, 124.2, 121.8, 121.7, 120.5, 111.6, 56.3. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₂N [M+H]⁺ 228.1025, Found: 228.1016.

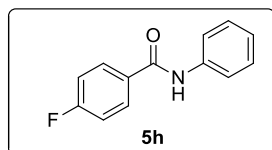


The general procedure was applied to ethyl 3-methoxybenzoate (144 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (60 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.16 (br s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.02 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.9, 160.0, 138.0, 136.5, 129.8, 129.1, 124.7, 120.5, 118.9, 118.1, 112.5, 55.5. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₂N [M+H]⁺ 228.1025, Found: 228.1024.

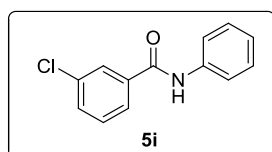


The general procedure was applied to ethyl 2-fluorobenzoate (134 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (40 mg, 46% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.47 (d, *J* = 14.6 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.12 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 161.4, 160.46 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 245 Hz), 137.8, 133.83 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 10 Hz), 132.3, 129.2, 125.28 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 3 Hz), 124.9, 121.51 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 11 Hz), 120.6, 116.23 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 25

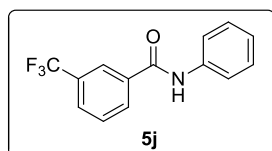
Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -113.21$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{OFNaN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 238.0644, Found: 238.0649.



The general procedure was applied to ethyl 4-fluorobenzoate (134 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (56 mg, 65% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.92\text{--}7.86$ (m, 2H), 7.77 (br s, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, $J = 11.9, 5.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.04$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 257$ Hz), 164.8, 137.9, 129.55 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9$ Hz), 129.3, 124.9, 120.4, 116.04 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -107.41$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{OFN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 216.0825, Found: 216.0818.

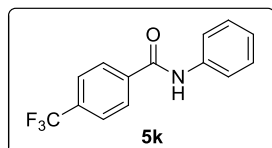


The general procedure was applied to ethyl 3-chlorobenzoate (148 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (55 mg, 60% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.98$ (br s, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 164.6, 137.7, 136.9, 135.1, 132.0, 130.2, 129.3, 127.5, 125.3, 125.0, 120.5$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{OCIN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 232.0529, Found: 232.0506.

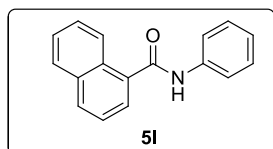


The general procedure was applied to ethyl 3-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (174 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified

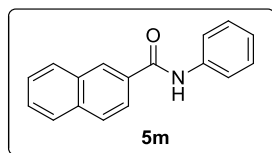
by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (74 mg, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.18 (br s, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 164.7, 137.6, 135.9, 131.34 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32 Hz), 130.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.49 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 4 Hz), 125.2, 124.21 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 4 Hz), 123.75 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 271 Hz), 120.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -62.73. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 288.0612, Found: 288.0617.



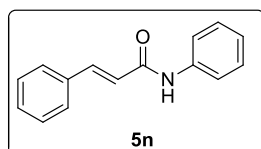
The general procedure was applied to ethyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (174 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (46 mg, 43% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 10.48 (br s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dd, J = 10.8, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ = 164.4, 138.9, 138.8, 131.45 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32 Hz), 128.7, 128.6, 125.35 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3 Hz), 124.0, 123.96 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 271 Hz), 120.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO) δ = -61.49. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 288.0612, Found: 288.0611.



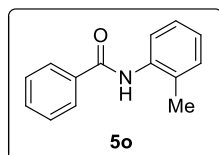
The general procedure was applied to ethyl 1-naphthoate (160 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (70 mg, 71% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.34–8.32 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.7, 138.2, 134.5, 133.8, 131.1, 130.2, 129.3, 128.5, 127.5, 126.7, 125.4, 125.2, 124.8, 124.8, 120.1. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.1075, Found: 248.1067.



The general procedure was applied to ethyl 2-naphthoate (160 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (62 mg, 63% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.04 (br s, 1H), 7.95–7.87 (m, 4H), 7.73–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.0, 138.1, 135.0, 132.7, 132.34, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 124.8, 123.7, 120.4. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.1075, Found: 248.1082.

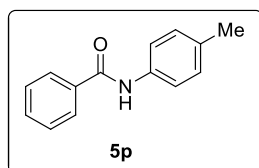


The general procedure was applied to ethyl cinnamate (153 mg, 0.8 mmol), nitrobenzene (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (45 mg, 50% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.79 (br s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, J = 10.1, 5.3 Hz, 5H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 164.3, 142.5, 138.2, 134.7, 130.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.1, 124.6, 121.1, 120.2. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 246.0895, Found: 246.0895.

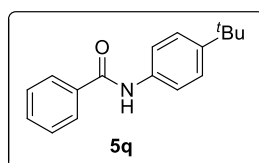


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 2-nitrotoluene (55 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (58 mg, 69% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.88–7.83 (m, 4H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H),

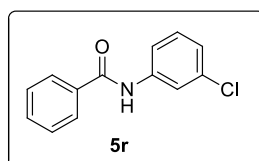
7.23 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (dd, $J = 10.7, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.9, 135.8, 134.9, 131.9, 130.6, 129.9, 128.8, 127.2, 126.8, 125.5, 123.6, 17.9$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 212.1075$, Found: 212.1072.



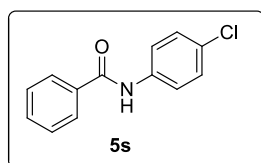
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-nitrotoluene (55 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (62 mg, 73% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.95$ (br s, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (dd, $J = 7.8, 3.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.9, 135.5, 135.2, 134.3, 131.8, 129.7, 128.8, 127.2, 120.5, 21.0$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 212.1075$, Found: 212.1069.



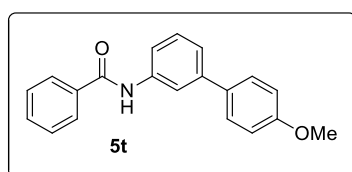
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-tert-butyl-4-nitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (61 mg, 60% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.12$ (br s, 1H), 7.87–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 166.0, 147.6, 135.5, 135.2, 131.7, 128.7, 127.2, 125.9, 120.3, 34.5, 31.5$. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 254.1545$, Found: 254.1563.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 3-Chloronitrobenzene (63 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (77 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.66 (d, *J* = 36.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82–7.73 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.6, 139.2, 134.5, 134.4, 132.0, 129.9, 128.7, 127.2, 124.6, 120.8, 118.7. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₁OCIN [M+H]⁺ 232.0529, Found: 232.0530.

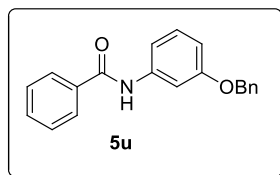


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-Chloronitrobenzene (63 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (72 mg, 78% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 171.9, 133.9, 132.2, 130.3, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 127.2, 121.6. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₁OCIN [M+H]⁺ 232.0529, Found: 232.0522.

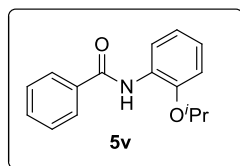


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4'-Methoxy-3-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl (92 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (99 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.17 (br s, 1H), 7.90–7.84 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.1, 159.4, 141.8,

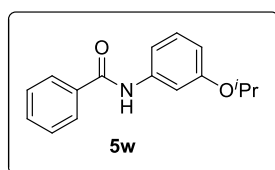
138.5, 135.0, 133.2, 131.9, 129.5, 128.8, 128.3, 127.2, 123.0, 118.7, 114.3, 55.4. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ 326.1157, Found: 326.1158.



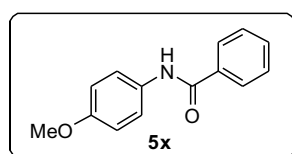
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-nitro-3-phenylmethoxybenzene (92 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (93 mg, 77% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.28 (br s, 1H), 7.82–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.26 (m, 7H), 7.21–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.74–6.71 (m, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.2, 159.4, 139.3, 136.9, 134.9, 131.8, 129.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.6, 127.2, 112.9, 111.4, 107.0, 70.0. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ 326.1157, Found: 326.1155.



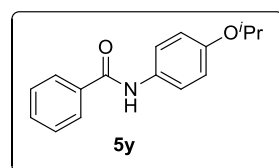
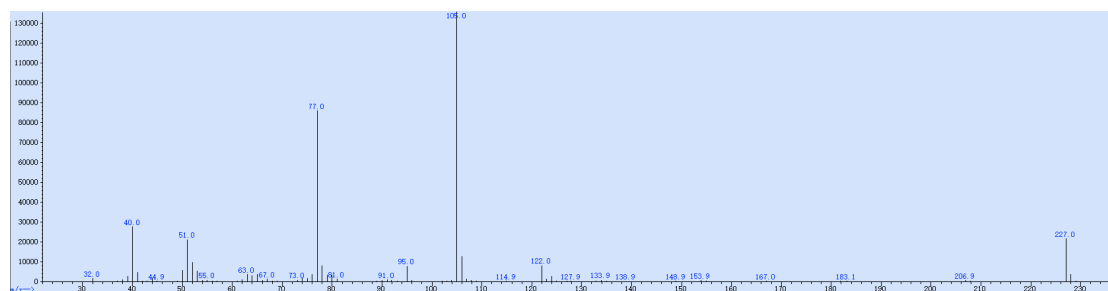
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 2-Isopropoxynitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (46 mg, 45% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.69 (br s, 1H), 8.57 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.93–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.09–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dt, *J* = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.1, 146.5, 135.5, 131.8, 128.9, 128.9, 127.1, 123.9, 121.3, 119.9, 112.7, 71.6, 22.4. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ 278.1157, Found: 278.1163.



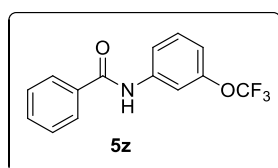
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-isopropoxy-3-nitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.13 (br s, 1H), 7.87–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (dt, *J* = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.0, 158.6, 139.3, 135.1, 131.8, 129.8, 128.8, 127.1, 112.5, 112.4, 107.9, 70.1, 22.1. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ 278.1157, Found: 278.1165.



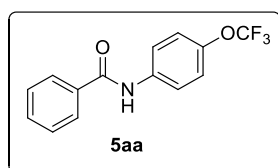
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-methoxy-4-nitrobenzene (61 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (65 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.16 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.5, 155.9, 135.4, 132.6, 131.7, 128.7, 128.0, 122.4, 114.1, 55.5. GC-MS (EI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₂ (M) 227.1, found 227.0.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-nitro-4-propan-2-yloxybenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (73 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.93 (br s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90–6.84 (m, 2H), 4.51 (dt, J = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.9, 155.0, 135.2, 131.7, 131.0, 128.8, 127.1, 122.3, 116.5, 70.5, 22.2. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ 278.1157, Found: 278.1165.

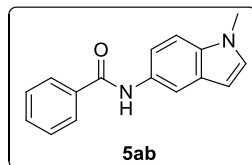


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 3-(Trifluoromethoxy)nitrobenzene (83 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (87 mg, 77% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.38 (br s, 1H), 7.86–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.56–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.4, 149.7, 149.6, 139.5, 134.5, 132.2, 130.1, 128.8, 127.2, 118.5, 116.7, 113.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -57.73. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀O₂NF₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 304.0561, Found: 304.0564.

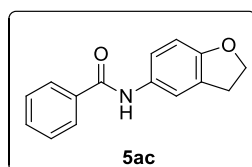


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 4-(Trifluoromethoxy)nitrobenzene (83 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (65 mg, 58% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 10.45 (br s, 1H),

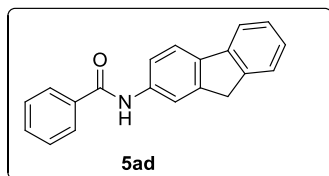
7.99–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.93–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.61 (ddd, $J = 6.3, 3.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) $\delta = 165.7, 143.9, 138.4, 134.7, 131.8, 128.5, 127.7, 121.7, 121.5, 54.9$; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO) $\delta = -57.05$. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{NF}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^{+}$ 304.0561, Found: 304.0565.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-methyl-5-nitroindole (70 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (45 mg, 45% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.95\text{--}7.89$ (m, 4H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.9, 135.6, 134.5, 131.6, 130.3, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 116.2, 113.2, 109.5, 101.2, 33.1$. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ON}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$ 251.1184, Found: 251.1183.



The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 5-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran (66 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (33 mg, 34% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.94$ (br s, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.56 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.19 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.9, 157.3, 135.1, 131.7, 130.9, 128.8, 127.8, 127.1, 121.0, 118.8, 109.2, 71.6, 30.0$. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^{+}$ 262.0844, Found: 262.0846.

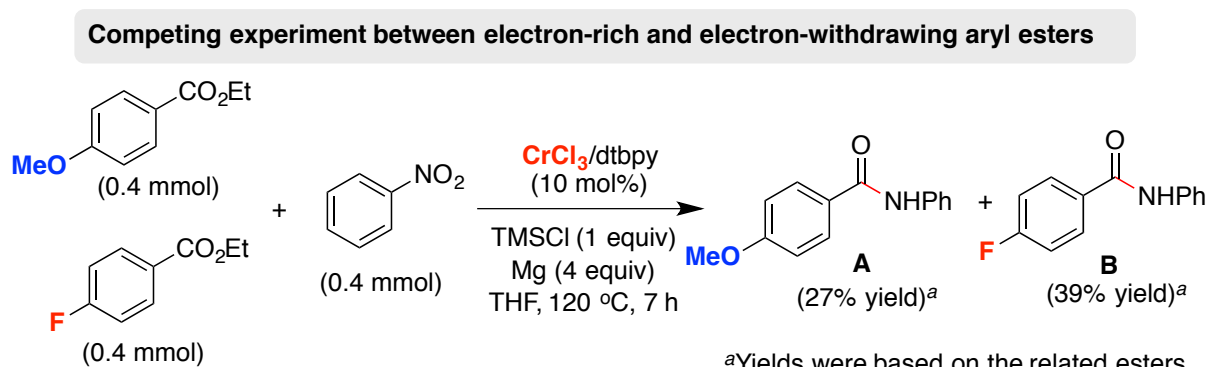


The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 2-nitrofluorene (85 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/4) to afford the title compound as a white solid (44.5 mg, 39% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.97 (br s, 1H), 7.92–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 5H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 165.9, 144.6, 143.4, 141.4, 138.5, 136.9, 135.2, 132.0, 129.0, 127.2, 126.9, 126.5, 125.1, 120.3, 119.7, 119.1, 117.3, 37.2. HRMS (ESI^+): Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ONNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 308.1051, Found: 308.1056.

Gram scale amidation by reaction of ethyl benzoate with nitrobenzene:

A dried Schlenk tube was charged with ethyl benzoate (3 g, 20 mmol), nitrobenzene (1.23 g, 10 mmol), CrCl_3 (157 mg, 0.1 mmol), Mg (960 mg, 40 mmol), dtbpy (250 mg, 0.1 mmol), and TMSCl (2.5 mL, 10 mmol) followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (25 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl aqueous (20 mL, 1 M), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 30 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **5a** as a white solid (531 mg, 27% yield).

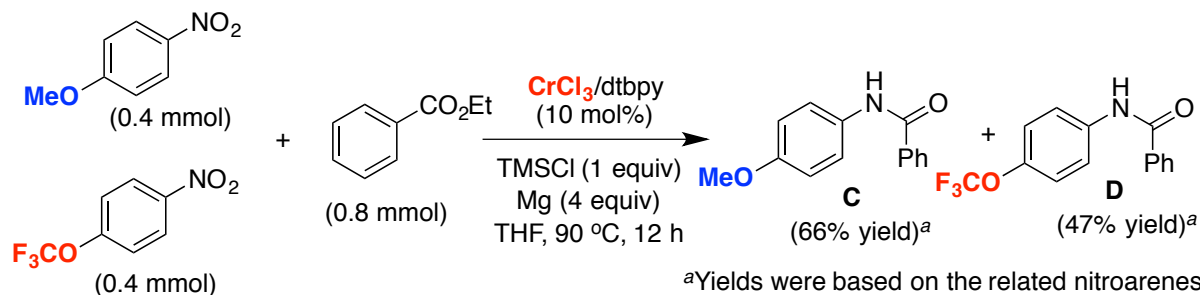
4. Competing Experiments and Application in the Synthesis of Biologically Interesting Motifs



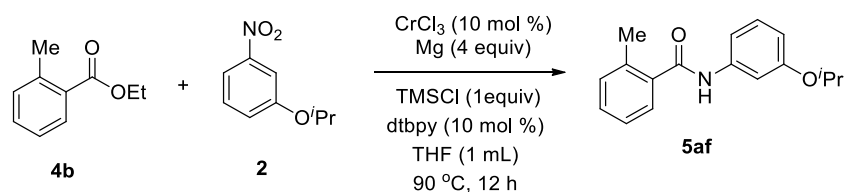
The general procedure was applied to *nitrobenzene* (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), ethyl 4-fluorobenzoate

(67 mg, 0.4 mmol), ethyl 4-methoxybenzoate (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 7 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound **B** as a white solid (34 mg, 39% yield) and **A** as a yellow solid (25 mg, 27%).

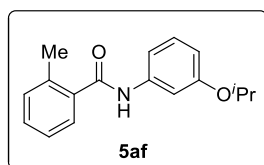
Competing experiment between electron-rich and electron-withdrawing nitrobenzenes



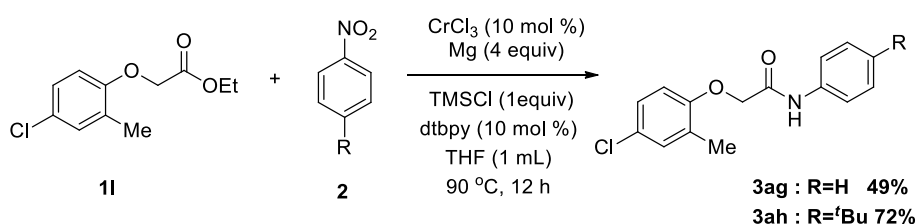
The general procedure was applied to *ethyl benzoate* (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), 1-nitro-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (83 mg, 0.4 mmol), 1-methoxy-4-nitrobenzene (61 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl_3 (13 mg, 0.08 mmol), Mg (77 mg, 3.2 mmol), dtbpy (21 mg, 0.08 mmol), TMSCl (100 μL , 0.8 mmol), THF (2 mL) at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound **D** as a white solid (53 mg, 47% yield) and **C** as a yellow solid (60 mg, 66%).



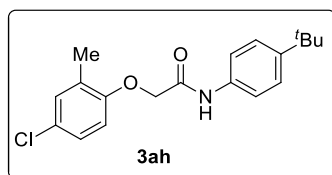
A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **4b** (131 mg, 0.8 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), 1-isopropoxy-3-nitrobenzene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol) followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. After quenched by aqueous HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **5af** (72 mg, 67%).



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.70 (br s, 1H), 7.41–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 14.5, 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (dt, J = 11.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.32 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.2, 158.6, 139.3, 136.5, 136.4, 131.3, 130.3, 129.8, 126.7, 125.9, 112.2, 112.0, 107.6, 70.05, 22.1, 20.0. HRMS (ESI $^+$): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 292.1313, Found: 292.1311.

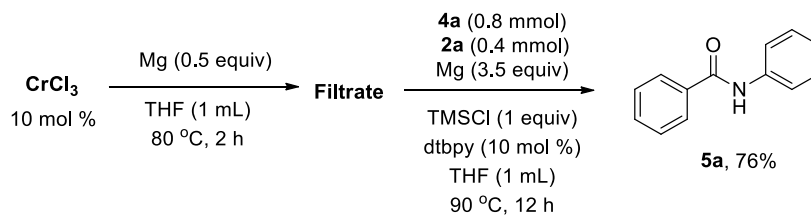


A dried Schlenk tube was charged with *ethyl 2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)acetate* (183 mg, 0.8 mmol), CrCl_3 (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **2** (0.4 mmol), and TMSCl (50 μL , 0.4 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **3ah** (95 mg, 72%).

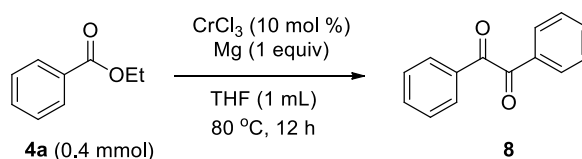


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.20 (br s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.0, 154.0, 148.2, 134.2, 131.1, 128.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.1, 120.0, 113.2, 68.2, 34.6, 31.5, 16.4. HRMS (ESI $^+$): Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{NCINa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 354.1237, Found: 354.1239.

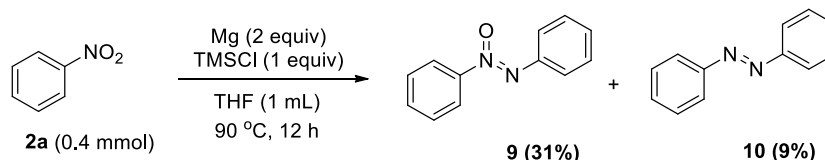
5. Mechanistic Studies



A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **CrCl₃** (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **Mg** (2 mg, 0.2 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen. After stirring at 80 °C for 2 h. then filtrate, a mixture of **4a** (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), **2a** (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), **Mg** (134 mg, 1.4 mmol), **dtbpy** (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), **TMSCl** (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), THF (1 mL) in a 15 mL glass vial were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous **Na₂SO₄** and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **5a**(76%).

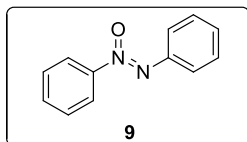


A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **4a** (60 mg, 0.4 mmol), **CrCl₃** (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **Mg** (10 mg, 0.4 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous **Na₂SO₄** and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **8** (13 mg, 30%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 4H), 7.69–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 194.7, 135.0, 133.1, 130.0, 129.2.

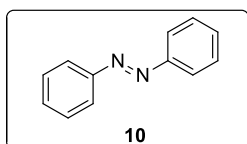


A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **2a** (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), **Mg** (19 mg, 0.8 mmol), **TMSCl** (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L),

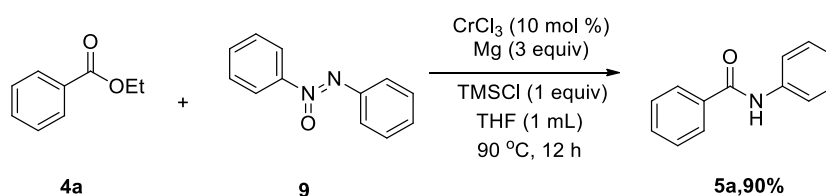
the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired products **9** (31%) and **10** (9%).



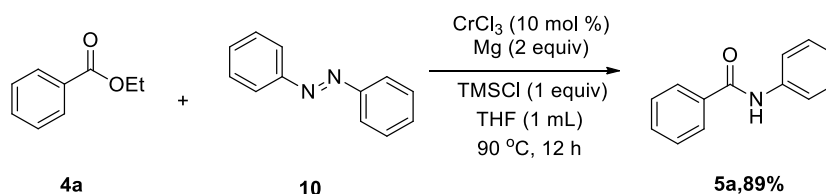
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.33 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 5H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 148.5, 144.1, 131.7, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 125.7, 122.5. HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for C₁₂H₁₀N₂O [M]⁺ 198.0793, Found: 198.0795.



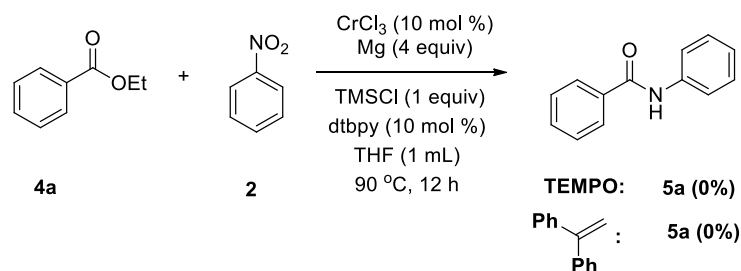
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.96–7.90 (m, 4H), 7.56–7.46 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 152.8, 131.1, 129.2, 123.0. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₂H₁₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 183.0922; found 183.0913.



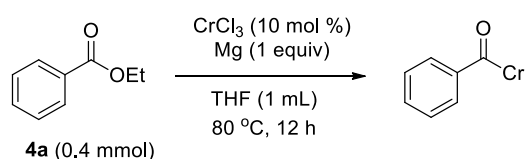
A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **4a** (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **9** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol), and TMSCl (50 μL, 0.4 mmol), Mg (29 mg, 1.2 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **5a**.



A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **4a** (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **10** (36 mg, 0.2 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), Mg (19 mg, 0.8 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc in petroleum ether) to give the desired product **5a**.



Two dried Schlenk tube were charged with **4a** (120 mg, 0.8 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), **2** (49 mg, 0.4 mmol), TMSCl (50 μ L, 0.4 mmol), Mg (38 mg, 1.6 mmol), dtbpy (10 mg, 0.04 mmol), 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxy (TEMPO) (125 mg, 0.8 mmol) or 1,1-diphenylethylene (144 mg, 0.8 mmol) followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 h. After quenched by HCl (2 mL, 1 mol/L), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. Direct detection by TLC or GC-MS, no desired product.



A dried Schlenk tube was charged with **4a** (60 mg, 0.4 mmol), CrCl₃ (6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Mg (10 mg, 0.4 mmol), followed by adding a freshly distilled THF (1 mL) by syringe under atmosphere of nitrogen, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. The resulting mixture was then measured by EPR studies.

Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectrum (Figure 1)

**Winsim v.1.0, 2002**

Public EPR Software Tools
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Institutes of Health, USA
<http://epr.niehs.nih.gov/>

Date: 01/04/19 1

Spectral Parameters:

Field Center: 3517.928 G
Scan Range: 2999.267 G
Data Points: 1024
Mod. Amp.: 1.000000 G
Mod. Freq: 100.000000 KHz

Time Constant: 81.919998
Rec. Gain: 5023.772949
MW Freq.: 9.859511 GHz
MW Power: 0.622400 mw

Simulation Parameters:

Calculation type: Simple
Number of Species: 1
Domain: CW

Species number: 1

Rel. conc. : 100.000 Lorentzian : 105.673
Line width : 55.518 G-shift : 27.289
Nuclei Coupling Spin Number
1 4.929 1.5 1

Comment:

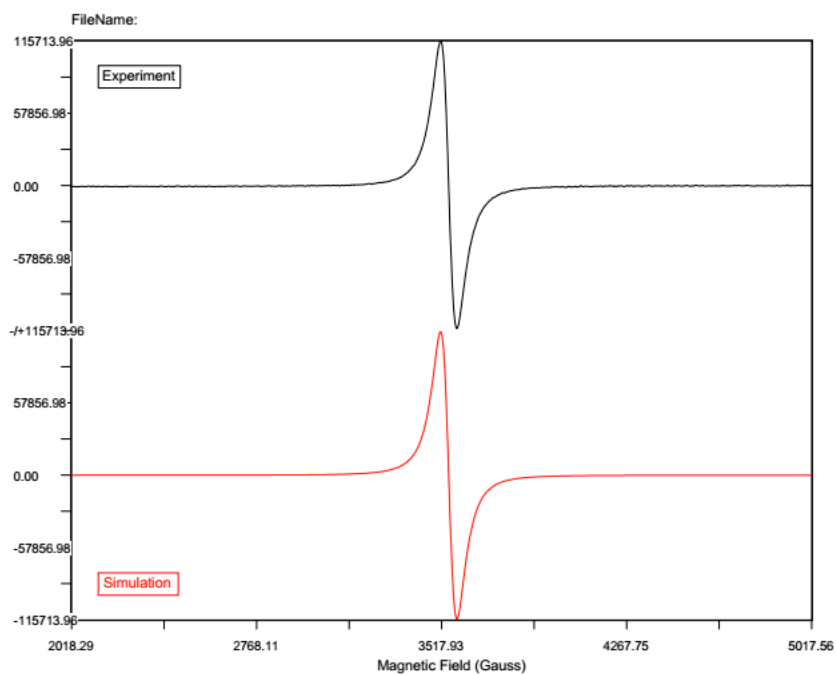


Figure 1. EPR studies of stoichiometric reactions.

6. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra

