# **Supporting Information**

# RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O-Catalyzed Ligand-Enabled Highly Regioselective Thiolation of Acrylic Acids

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#### **Table of Contents**

| General Information  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| Experimental Section   | S-3         |  |
| Optimization of the Rh-catalyzed thiolation of 1a with 2a                      | S-3         |  |
| General procedure for the preparation of alkenyl sulfides                      | S-7         |  |
| Large scale reaction   | S-7         |  |
| Derivative reaction  | <b>S-</b> 8 |  |
| Controlled experiment  | S-8         |  |
| Competitive experiment   | <b>S-</b> 9 |  |
| Characterization of structurally novel compounds                               | S-10        |  |
| <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of structurally novel compounds | S-16        |  |
| X-ray Structure of 4a  | S-43        |  |
| References   |             |  |

#### **General information**

Unless otherwise noted, all commercially available compounds were used as provided without further purification. Acrylic acids 1 and  $1a-d_2$  were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>1</sup> Solvents for chromatography were analytical grade and used without further purification. Anhydrous MeCN, DMF, DMA, DMSO, THF (99.9%, Extra Dry with molecular sieves, Water≤50 ppm, in resealable bottle under Ar) were purchased from Adamas-beta®. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel, visualized by I<sub>2</sub> or irradiation with UV light. For column chromatography, 200-300 mesh silica gel was used. Flash chromatography was performed with SepaBean® machine of Santai Technologies. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR were recorded on a BRUKER 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported referenced to an internal tetramethylsilane standard or the CDCl<sub>3</sub> residual peak ( $\delta$  7.26) for <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Chemical shifts of <sup>13</sup>C NMR were reported relative to  $CDCl_3$  ( $\delta$  77.16). Data were reported in the following order: chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) in ppm; multiplicities were indicated s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet); coupling constants (J) were in Hertz (Hz). IR spectra were recorded on a BRUKER VERTEX 70 spectrophotometer and were reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm<sup>-1</sup>). In situ IR spectroscopy was performed on Mettler-Toledo ReactIR 15 equipped with a diamond ATR probe and a MCT detector. Spectra were acquired using Mettler-Toledo iC IR software version 7.0.297 in the range of 650–2200 cm<sup>-1</sup> with a 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution. HRMS spectra were obtained by using GCT Premier TOF-MS with CI source or BRUKER microTOF-Q III instrument with ESI source. Standard XPS spectra of Cu is accessable from website of Thermo Scientific (https://xpssimplified.com/elements/copper.php#opennewwindow).

# **Experimental section**

## **Optimization of the Rh-catalyzed thiolation of 1a with 2a.**

|                     | RhCl <sub>3</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> (<br>Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> | D (5 mol %) SPh<br>(5 mol %) |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
|                     | solvent, 12  | 20 °C, 12 h                  |
| <b>1a</b> (1 equiv) | <b>2a</b> (1 equiv)  | 4a                           |
| Entry               | Solvent (1 mL)   | LC-yield (%)                 |
| 1                   | DMF  | 10                           |
| 2                   | DMA  | N.D.                         |
| 3                   | NMP  | 7                            |
| 4                   | DMSO   | N.D.                         |
| 5                   | 1,4-dioxane  | N.D.                         |
| 6                   | THF  | trace                        |
| 7                   | MeCN   | 7                            |
| 8                   | DCE  | N.D.                         |
| 9                   | Toluene  | N.D.                         |
| 10                  | PhCF <sub>3</sub>  | N.D.                         |
| 11                  | HFIP   | trace                        |
| 12                  | EtOH   | N.D.                         |
| 13                  | t-AmOH   | N.D.                         |
| 14                  | AcOH   | N.D.                         |

Table S1. Optimization of solvents.

| Table S2. Optimization of amount of Cu(OAc) | 2. |
|---|----|
|---|----|

| RhCl <sub>3</sub> •3H <sub>2</sub> C<br>+ Ph <mark>SS</mark> Ph <u>Cu(O</u><br>DMF, 120 | 0 (5 mol %)<br>Ac) <sub>2</sub><br>°C, 12 h   |
|---|---|
| <b>2a</b> (1 equiv)   | 4a  |
| Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>  | LC-yield (%)  |
| -   | N.D.  |
| 10 mol%   | 17  |
| 15 mol%   | 17  |
| 20 mol%   | 27  |
| 25 mol%   | 32  |
| 50 mol%   | 40  |
| 75 mol%   | 40  |
|   | + PhSSPh<br>← PhSSPh<br>2a (1 equiv)<br>Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub><br>-<br>10 mol%<br>15 mol%<br>20 mol%<br>25 mol%<br>50 mol%<br>75 mol% |

| 8 | 1 equiv   | 49 |
|---|-----------|----|
| 9 | 1.5 equiv | 38 |

Table S3. Optimization of sort of Cu salts.

| Соон                | RhCl <sub>3</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> C<br>+ Ph <mark>SS</mark> Ph [Cu] (1<br>DMF, 120 | o (5 mol %)<br>equiv)<br>°C, 12 h |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1a</b> (1 equiv) | <b>2a</b> (1 equiv)   | 4a                                |
| Entry               | [Cu]  | LC-yield (%)                      |
| 1                   | CuCl <sub>2</sub>   | Trace                             |
| 2                   | Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>  | 17                                |
| 3                   | CuO   | 22                                |
| 4                   | $CuSO_4$  | 16                                |
| 5                   | Cu(TFA) <sub>2</sub>  | 34                                |
| 6                   | Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>   | Trace                             |
| 7                   | CuCl  | 19                                |
| 8                   | Cu(acac) <sub>2</sub>   | 32                                |
| 9                   | CuI   | 23                                |
| 10                  | CuBr  | 29                                |

Table S4. Optimization of sort of Ag salts.

| COOH + PhS |                     | RhCl <sub>3</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> C<br>Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub><br>[Ag] (20<br> | 0 (5 mol %)<br>(1 equiv)<br>mol %)<br>°C, 12 h |
|------------|---------------------|--|--|
|            | <b>1a</b> (1 equiv) | <b>2a</b> (1 equiv)  | 4a   |
|            | Entry               | [Ag]   | LC-yield (%)                                   |
|            | 1                   | AgSbF <sub>6</sub>   | 30   |
|            | 2                   | $AgBF_4$   | 45   |
|            | 3                   | AgOTf  | 28   |
|            | 4                   | AgOTs  | 39   |
|            | 5                   | AgTFA  | 46   |
|            | 6                   | AgOAc  | 45   |
|            | 7                   | Ag <sub>2</sub> O  | 49   |
|            | 8                   | Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>  | 45   |
|            |                     |  |  |

Table S5. Optimization of sort of ligands.



S5



<sup>a</sup>PhSSPh: 2 equiv, 6 h.



| Ĺ     | Соон                | + Ph <mark>SS</mark> Ph | RhCl <sub>3</sub> •3H <sub>2</sub> O<br>Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (<br>L36<br>DMF, 120 <sup>C</sup> | (5 mol %)<br>1 equiv)<br>5<br>2C, 12 h | SPh          |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--------------|
|       | <b>1a</b> (1 equiv) | <b>2a</b> (1 equiv      | <i>'</i> )   |  | 4a           |
| Entry |                     | Amour                   | nt of <b>L36</b>   | Isolate                                | ed yield (%) |
|       | 1                   | 5 mol %                 |  |  | 54           |
|       | 2                   | 10 mol %                |  |  | 64           |

| 3 | 15 mol % | 69 |
|---|----------|----|
| 4 | 20 mol % | 66 |
| 5 | 25 mol % | 65 |
| 6 | 30 mol % | 68 |

Table S7. Optimization of amount of PhSSPh.

| Соон                | + Ph <mark>SS</mark> Ph | RhCl <sub>3</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O (5<br>Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1<br>L36 (15 m<br>DMF, 120 °6 | 5 mol %)<br>equiv)<br>ol %)<br>C, 12 h |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>1a</b> (1 equiv) | 2a                      |  | 4a                                     |
| Entry               | Amount of PhSSPh        |  | Isolated yield (%)                     |
| 1                   | 50 mol %                |  | 34                                     |
| 2                   | 1 equiv                 |  | 66                                     |
| 3                   | 1.25 equiv              |  | 70                                     |
| 4                   | 1.5 equiv               |  | 67                                     |
| 5                   | 2 equiv                 |  | 75                                     |
|                     |                         |  |  |

#### General procedure for the preparation of alkenyl sulfides



An oven-dried screw-capped 8-mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1** (0.3 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mol %, 3.9 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 equiv, 54 mg), L37 (15 mol %, 19.9 mg). DMF (3 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 6 h. The crude reaction mixture was filtered to remove the PhSCu(0, I) powder. The filtrate was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with water (20 mL  $\times$  3). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc and DCM or PE.

#### Large scale reaction

An oven-dried round-bottomed 25-mL flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Atropic acid **1a** (6 mmol, 0.8890 g), PhSSPh **2a** (12 mmol, 2.6200 g), RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mol %, 80 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 equiv, 1.0898 g), L37 (15 mol %, 398 mg). DMF (10 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h. The crude reaction mixture was filtered to remove the PhSCu(0, I) powder. The filtrate was diluted with ethyl acetate (150 mL) and washed with water (50 mL  $\times$  3). The

organic layer was dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by auto flash chromatography with EtOAc and PE (EA : PE = 1 : 10). Isolated yield: 60%, 0.9260 g.

#### **Derivative reaction**



The procedure was adapted from the literature.<sup>2</sup>An oven-dried screw-capped 8-mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **4a** (0.2 mmol, 51.3 mmg), TfOH (0.5 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O and diluted with DCM (10 mL×3). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc and PE (EA : PE = 1 : 20).



The procedure was adapted from the literature.<sup>3</sup> An oven-dried round bottom tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with LiAlH<sub>4</sub> in THF (1 mol/L, 1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) and cooled to 0 °C. **4a** (128.2 mg, 0.5 mmol) was carefully added in portions at this temperature then the mixture was warmed up to room temperature and refluxed for 1 h. At this point, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and reaction was quenched by slow addition of Sat. Rochelle's salt (5 mL) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted using EtOAc (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc and PE (EA : PE = 1 : 5).

#### **Controlled experiment**



An oven-dried screw-capped 8-mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1a'** (0.3 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mol %, 3.9 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 equiv, 54 mg), L37 (15 mol %, 19.9 mg). DMF (3 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 6 h. Corresponding product **4a'** was not detected.

#### **Competitive experiment**



An oven-dried screw-capped 8-mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1a** (29.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), **1a**- $d_2$  (99% D, 30.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2c** (111.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mol %, 2.6 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 equiv, 36 mg), L37 (15 mol %, 13.4 mg). DMF (2 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 1.5 h. The crude reaction mixture was filtered to remove the PhSCu(0, I) powder. The filtrate was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with water (20 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc and DCM (EA: DCM = 1 : 5). The ratio was identified by <sup>1</sup>HNMR to give the KIE value of 3.0.



### Characterization of structurally novel compounds

#### (Z)-2-(o-tolyl)-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3a



Following general procedure, **3a** was obtained as a yellow solid (50.2 mg, 59%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.92 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.12 (m, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  152.67, 138.69, 137.26, 137.22, 133.05, 131.44, 130.30, 130.22, 130.10, 128.26, 125.85, 125.81, 21.24, 20.20.; FT-IR (ATR): 2924, 1660, 1536, 1486, 1419, 1318, 1234 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 307.0769, found: 307.0765. Mp: 167.3-168.3

°C.

#### (Z)-2-(m-tolyl)-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3b



Following general procedure, **3b** was obtained as a yellow solid (67.3 mg, 56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.95 (s, 1H), 7.52 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 14.8 Hz, 5H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  138.73, 137.84, 133.27, 131.52, 130.32, 130.26, 129.72, 128.44, 128.12, 126.14, 21.53, 21.26; FT-IR (ATR): 2923, 1656, 1532, 1232, 1239 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 307.0769, found: 307.0767. Mp: 151.3-152.2 °C.

Following general procedure, **3c** was obtained as a yellow solid (65.4 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.11, 151.45, 138.60, 133.25, 131.38, 130.17, 130.12, 130.03, 113.57, 55.35, 21.18; FT-IR (ATR):

2956, 1670, 1508, 1286, 1241, 1182 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z):

calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>:323.0718, found: 323.0722.

#### (Z)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3c



**Mp**: 148.9-149.9 °C.

#### (Z)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3d



Following general procedure, **3d** was obtained as a light yellow solid (69.0 mg, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, DMSO-***d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.03 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, DMSO-***d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.85, 146.62, 137.74, 136.62, 132.74, 131.83, 130.40, 130.28, 130.11, 127.85, 126.48, 20.61; FT-IR (ATR): 2926, 1651, 1522, 1487, 1422, 1315, 1236 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 305.0403, found: 305.0406. Mp:

177.1-178.2 °C.

#### (Z)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3e



Following general procedure, **3e** was obtained as a light yellow solid (63.9 mg, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.48 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.60, 162.55(d, *J* c-F= 245.0 Hz),153.01, 138.85, 133.48(d, *J* c-F= 3.0 Hz), 132.94, 131.46, 130.66(d, *J* c-F= 3.0 Hz),130.25, 115.14, 114.93, 21.17; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (**376** MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -114.57. FT-IR (ATR): 2919,

1662, 1492, 1219 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 311.0518, found: 311.0517. **Mp**: 150.7-151.8 °C.

#### (Z)-2-benzyl-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3f



Following general procedure, **3f** was obtained as a light yellow solid (51.6 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29 (dd, J = 7.7, 18.0 Hz, 4H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.32, 149.92, 139.34, 138.43, 133.39, 131.15, 130.21, 128.82, 128.59, 126.49, 123.80, 38.83, 21.25; FT-IR (ATR): 2909, 1664, 1557, 1430, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S

[M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 307.0769, found: 307.0763. **Mp**: 138.3-139.2 °C.

#### (Z)-2-((p-tolylthio)methylene)octanoic acid 3g



Following general procedure, **3g** was obtained as a white solid (62.1 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400** MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 2.34 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 5H), 1.49 (p, *J* = 7.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100** MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.49, 147.82, 138.40, 133.74, 131.48, 130.19, 125.13, 33.37, 31.75, 29.55, 29.02, 22.76, 21.26,

14.21; **FT-IR (ATR):** 2919, 2851, 1665, 1556, 1251, 941 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 279.1419, found: 279.1414. **Mp**: 58.9-59.8 °C.

#### (Z)-2-methyl-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 3h



Following general procedure, **3h** was obtained as a yellow solid (36.7 mg, 48%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.59 (s, 1H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  147.96, 138.45, 133.52, 131.54, 130.18, 21.26, 19.23, 19.23; FT-IR (ATR): 2918, 1672, 1540, 1418, 1250 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 231.0456, found: 231.0450. Mp: 134.7-135.8 °C.

#### 2-(p-tolylthio)cyclohex-1-ene-1-carboxylic acid 3i



Following general procedure, **3i** was obtained as a yellow solid (55.2 mg, 39%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.98 (s, 1H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (td, *J* = 2.9, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.00 (td, *J* = 3.0, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.63 – 1.49 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.72, 154.19, 139.39, 136.09, 129.86, 128.23, 120.52, 32.35, 27.25, 23.14, 21.95, 21.40; FT-IR (ATR): 2926, 1662, 1552, 1414, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S

[M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 271.0769, found: 271.0771. Mp: 191.9-192.6 °C.

#### 2-(p-tolylthio)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylic acid 3j



Following general procedure, **3j** was obtained as a yellow solid (55.2 mg, 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (tt, J = 2.1, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.35 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 1.81 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.50, 160.22, 139.67, 135.45, 129.87, 128.22, 122.78, 39.29, 33.48, 21.99, 21.39; FT-IR (ATR): 2924, 1698, 1639, 1427, 1274 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 235.0793, found:

235.0789. Mp: 204.0-205.0 °C.

#### (Z)-2-methyl-3-(p-tolylthio)but-2-enoic acid 3k



Following general procedure, **3k** was obtained as a yellow solid (55.2 mg, 26%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.96 (s, 1H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  152.21, 139.25, 135.45, 129.97, 129.53, 119.19, 21.60, 21.39, 16.53; FT-IR (ATR): 2922, 2852, 1659, 1540, 1412, 1282, 1196 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 245.0612, found: 245.0611. Mp: 172.2-173.3 °C.

#### (Z)-2-phenyl-3-(phenylthio)acrylic acid 4a



Following general procedure, **4a** was obtained as a light yellow solid (77.1 mg, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.51 (s, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  151.94, 137.50, 136.64, 131.35, 129.58, 129.05, 128.56, 128.27, 127.75, 126.36; **FT-IR** (**ATR**): 2920, 1656, 1534,1419, 1234 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (**ESI, m/z**): calcd for C15H13O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>:257.0636, found: 257.0638.

**Mp**: 150.4-151.4 °C.

#### (Z)-2-phenyl-3-(p-tolylthio)acrylic acid 4b



Following general procedure, **4b** was obtained as a light yellow solid (73.0 mg, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl3**):  $\delta$  11.82 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.43 – 7.25 (m, 7H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl3**):  $\delta$  152.84, 138.77, 137.56, 133.19, 131.49, 130.27, 129.02, 128.20, 127.63, 126.04, 21.25; FT-IR (ATR): 2875, 1652, 1526, 1488, 1418, 1231 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for

#### C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 293.0612, found: 293.0608. Mp: 168.6-169.5 °C.

#### (Z)-3-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4c



Following general procedure, **4c** was obtained as a light yellow solid (76.1 mg, 73%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (**400 MHz**, **CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.92 (s, 1H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 6.93 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (**100 MHz**, **CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  160.25, 153.84, 137.54, 133.60, 129.00, 128.19, 127.60, 127.35, 125.66, 115.08, 55.53; **FT-IR** (**ATR**): 2832, 1662, 1541, 1490, 1234, 1173 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (**ESI**, m/z): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 309.0561, found: 309.0561. **Mp**: 134.0-

#### (Z)-3-((2-fluorophenyl)thio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4d



Following general procedure, **4d** was obtained as a light yellow solid (68.0 mg, 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.76 (s, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 1.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (tt, *J* = 6.6, 16.4 Hz, 7H), 7.19 – 7.09 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.90, 161.55 (d, *J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 246 Hz), 150.77 (d, *J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 1 Hz), 137.16 (d, *J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 7 Hz), 134.19, 131.16, 129.03, 128.26, 127.83, 127.03, 125.05 (d, *J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 4 Hz), 123.27 (d, *J* <sub>C</sub>

 $_{\rm F} = 17$  Hz), 116.57 (d,  $J_{\rm C-F} = 22$  Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -108.44; FT-IR (ATR): 2929, 1655, 1532, 1473, 1249, 1222 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 297.0361, found: 297.0358. Mp: 124.0-124.9 °C.

#### (Z)-3-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4e



Following general procedure, **4e** was obtained as a yellow solid (81.3 mg, 73%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.09 (s, 1H), 7.74 – 7.18 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  167.25, 143.67, 137.51, 135.32, 132.70, 131.83, 129.38, 128.83, 128.51, 127.95, 127.24.; FT-IR (ATR): 2824, 1650, 1522, 1476, 1421, 1250, 1093 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 313.0066, found: 313.0059. Mp: 164.7-165.5 °C.

#### (Z)-3-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4f



Following general procedure, **4f** was obtained as a light brown solid (75.4 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-***d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.01 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (dt, *J* = 6.8, 12.8 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-***d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  143.39, 137.51, 135.82, 132.25, 132.01, 128.47, 127.93, 127.22, 121.13; **FT-IR (ATR):** 2918, 1651, 1471, 1421, 1248 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** 

Ph COOH calcd for  $C_{15}H_{11}BrO_2S$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 334.9741, found: 334.9745. **Mp**: 192.4-193.3 °C.

#### (Z)-3-(butylthio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4g

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Following general procedure, 4g was obtained as a light brown solid (61.6 mg, 22%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.28 (d, J = 919.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 2.79 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (dq, J = 7.4, 14.8 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.75, 152.57, 138.03, 128.88, 128.09, 127.37, 36.44, 32.40, 21.68, 13.64; FT-IR (ATR): 2957, 2927, 2855, 1724, 1666, 1418, 1250,1217 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 259.0769, found: 259.0765. Mp: 66.7-67.6 °C.

#### (Z)-3-(cyclohexylthio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4h



Following general procedure, 4h was obtained as an orange solid (61.4 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.00 (s, 1H), 7.42 – 7.25 (m, 6H), 2.84 (tt, J = 3.8, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (dd, J = 4.1, 13.2 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (dd, J = 4.1, 9.0 Hz, 2H), 1.67 - 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.53 - 1.41 (m, 2H),1.41 - 1.18 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  150.62, 138.27, 128.93, 128.07, 127.32, 48.30, 33.64, 25.93, 25.41; FT-IR (ATR): 2919, 2850, 1655, 1531, 1426, 1328, 1238, 1206 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for

### (Z)-3-(isopropylthio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4i

C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 285.0925, found: 285.0920. Mp: 155.5-156.5 °C.

Following general procedure, 4i was obtained as a yellow solid (61.4 mg, 36%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.77 (s, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.36 - 7.25 (m, 5H), 3.12 (hept, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, Ph' COOH 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.81, 150.41, 138.26, 128.98, 128.16, 127.44, 39.80, 23.61; FT-IR (ATR): 2963, 1657, 1526, 1419, 1325,1233 cm<sup>-</sup> <sup>1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 245.0612, found: 245.0617. Mp: 106.9-107.8 °C.

#### (Z)-3-(tert-butylthio)-2-phenylacrylic acid 4j



Following general procedure, 4j was obtained as a yellow solid (42.6 mg, 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.37 - 7.29 (m, 5H), 1.42 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 171.69, 147.96, 138.55, 129.03, 128.23, 127.45, 125.69, 44.75, 30.87; **FT-IR (ATR):** 2960, 2927, 1655, 1524, 1419, 1325, 1248, 1149 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for 245.0612 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 259.0769, found: 259.0763. Mp: 151.7-152.9 °C.

#### (Z)-2-phenyl-3-(phenylselanyl)acrylic acid 4k



Following general procedure, 4k was obtained as an orange solid (45.2 mg, 22%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.94 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J =2.9, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.26 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.05, 152.28, 137.74, 133.39, 133.16, 129.49, 128.79, 128.45, 128.17, 127.70; 77Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 508.96; FT-IR (ATR): 2922,

2851, 1656, 1421, 1307, 1324, 1217 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Se [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 326.9900, found: 326.9902. Mp: 158.0-159.0 °C.

#### 3-phenyl-4H-thiochromen-4-one der1



Following general procedure, **der1** was obtained as a light yellow solid (45.2 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.62 (dt, J = 1.2, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.61 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

**CDCl**<sub>3</sub>): δ 178.27, 137.51, 136.85, 136.78, 135.61, 132.80, 131.28, 129.50, 129.00, 128.31, 128.08, 127.81, 126.57; **FT-IR** (**ATR**): 1609, 1589, 1531,1437, 1355 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>OS [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 261.0350, found: 261.0353. **Mp**: 167.3-168.3 °C.

#### 2-phenyl-3-(phenylthio)propan-1-ol der2

Following general procedure, **der2** was obtained as a colorless oil (45.2 mg, 50%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.14 (m, 10H), 3.97 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (p, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  141.08, 136.37, 129.51, 129.10, 128.94, 128.07, 127.44, 126.27, 66.23, 47.61, 36.41; FT-IR (ATR): 3559, 2923, 2873, 1582, 1479, 1438, 1053, 1024 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OS [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 267.0820, found: 267.0818.



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of structurally novel compounds

























S28



![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

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### X-ray Structure of 4a

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

Crystal Number: CCDC 1935976 Empirical formula:  $C_{17}H_{14}O_2S$ Formula weight: 256.319 Unit cell parameters: a = 20.5001(11) Å, b = 9.8972(5) Å, c = 14.0168(8) Å,  $\alpha = 90.00$ ,  $\beta = 114.293(2)$ ,  $\gamma = 90.00$ Temperature: 150 K Wavelength: 0.71073 Å Crystal system: Monoclinic Volume: 2592.1 (2) Å<sup>3</sup> F (000): 1072.0 h, k, l max: 26, 12, 18

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