

Supporting Information

Copper-Catalyzed Synthesis of Benzimidazoles via Cascade Reactions of o-Haloacetanilide Derivatives with Amidine Hydrochlorides

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Table of contents

General experimental procedures	S2
General procedure for copper-catalyzed synthesis of 2-substituted 1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazoles (3a-k) and 1,2-disubstituted benzimidazoles (5a-i)	S2
ESI-mass spectrum of the reaction mixture for <i>o</i> -bromoacetoanilide with butyramidine hydrochloride (Figure 1)	S9
References	S9
The ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra of compounds 3a-k and 5a-i	S10

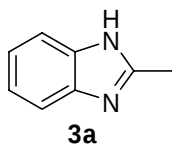
General experimental procedures

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. DMF and DMSO were dried over MgSO_4 . Unless stated otherwise, all reagents were weighed and handled in air at room temperature. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (200 ~ 300 mesh). Proton and carbon magnetic resonance spectra (^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR) were recorded using tetramethylsilane (TMS) in the solvent of CDCl_3 as the internal standard (^1H NMR: TMS at 0.00 ppm, CHCl_3 at 7.24 ppm; ^{13}C NMR: CDCl_3 at 77.0 ppm) or were recorded using tetramethylsilane (TMS) in the solvent of $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as the internal standard (^1H NMR: TMS at 0.00 ppm, DMSO at 2.50 ppm; ^{13}C NMR: DMSO at 40.0 ppm).

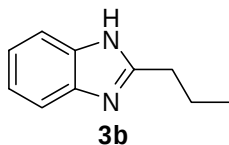
General procedure for copper-catalyzed synthesis of 2-substituted 1*H*-benzimidazoles (3a-k) and 1,2-disubstituted benzimidazoles (5a-i)

A flask was charged with CuBr (14 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (977 mg, 3 mmol) (see Tables 2 and 3) in 2 mL of DMSO, and *o*-haloacetanilide (1 mmol) and amidine hydrochloride (1.2 mmol) (see Tables 2 and 3) were added to the flask at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60 ~ 90 °C (see Tables 1 and 2) under nitrogen atmosphere. After the coupling reaction for a time as shown in Tables 2 and 3, the resulting solution was raised to 120 °C, and the reaction was maintained for 48 h. The reaction system was cooled to room temperature, and then the work-up was performed for synthesis of 2-substituted benzimidazoles in Table 2. The cooled mixture was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent to provide the desired product. For synthesis of disubstituted benzimidazoles in Table 3, aryl iodide (2 mmol) and 3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (47 mg, 0.2 mmol) were added to the resulting solution, and the reaction was carried out at 120 or 130 °C for 36 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The following work-up was similar to the former (2-substituted

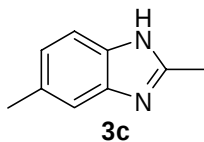
benzimidazoles).



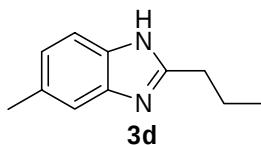
2-Methylbenzimidazole (3a).¹ Eluent: ethyl acetate. Yield 80% (106 mg). White solid, mp 172-174 °C (lit.¹ 172-173 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 9.86 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 151.6, 138.7, 122.2, 114.6, 15.0. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 132.0.



2-Propylbenzimidazole (3b).² Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 65% (103 mg). White solid, mp 155-157 °C (lit.² 156-157.5 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm), δ 12.7 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 2H), 3.00 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.90 (dt, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 0.97 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 156.0, 138.7, 122.2, 114.7, 31.3, 22.0, 14.0. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 160.1.

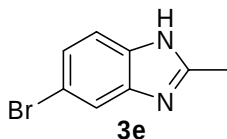


2,5-Dimethylbenzimidazole (3c).³ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1). Yield 75% (109 mg). Brown solid, mp 199-201 °C (lit.³ 203-204 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 9.93 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 151.1, 138.5, 137.1, 132.0, 123.7, 114.4, 114.1, 21.7, 14.6. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 146.1.

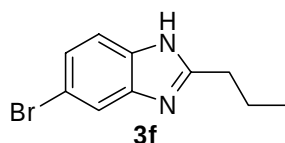


5-Methyl-2-propylbenzimidazole (3d). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 62% (107 mg). Yellow solid, mp 154-156 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm), δ 11.6 (s, 1 H), 7.45-7.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.05-7.02 (d, 1H, *J*

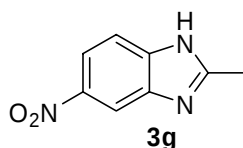
= 8.3 Hz), 2.92 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.88 (dt, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 0.97 (t, 3H, $J = 7.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 155.3, 138.6, 137.2, 131.9, 123.5, 114.6, 114.2, 31.3, 21.9, 21.7, 13.9. ESI-MS M^+ m/z 174.3.



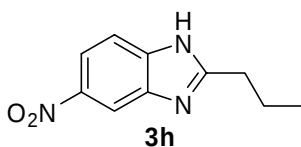
5-Bromo-2-methylbenzimidazole (3e). Eluent: ethyl acetate. Yield 86% (180 mg). White solid, mp 232-233 °C. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 300 MHz, ppm), δ 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.40 (d, 1H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.26-7.23 (d, 1H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 2.50 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 153.4, 141.3, 138.2, 124.4, 117.7, 116.1, 113.8, 15.1. ESI-MS M^+ 210.5, 212.4.



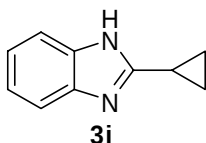
5-Bromo-2-propylbenzimidazole (3f). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (2:1). Yield 65% (154 mg). White solid, 109-112 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm), δ 12.0 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 7.34-7.31 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 2.95 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 1.89 (dt, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 0.99 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 156.7, 139.8, 137.4, 125.5, 117.6, 115.8, 115.4, 31.3, 21.8, 13.9. ESI-MS M^+ m/z 238.9, 240.8.



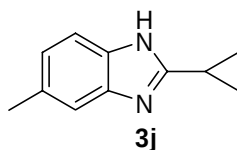
2-Methyl-5-nitrobenzimidazole (3g).⁴ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 74% (131 mg). Yellow solid, mp 218-220 °C (lit.⁴ 218-220 °C). ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 300 MHz, ppm), δ 12.95 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.07-8.04 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.65 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 2.58 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 142.6, 117.6, 15.4. ESI-MS M^+ m/z 176.1.



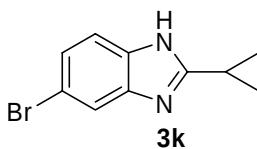
5-Nitro-2-propylbenzimidazole (3h). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 80% (164 mg). Yellow solid, mp 135-137.5 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm), δ 11.8 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.21-8.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0Hz), 7.64-7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 3.06 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.98 (dt, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.05(t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 160.4, 143.4, 142.8, 138.5, 118.6, 114.2, 111.8, 31.5, 21.6, 13.9. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 204.2.



2-Cyclopropylbenzimidazole (3i). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1). Yield 65% (103 mg). White solid, mp 227-229 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 12.17 (s, 1H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.05(m, 1H), 1.05-1.03 (dd, 4H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 157.4, 121.4, 121.3, 109.1, 9.9, 9.2. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 158.1.

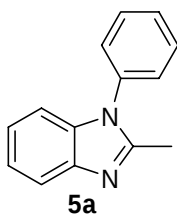


2-Cyclopropyl-5-methylbenzimidazole (3j). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1). Yield 70% (120 mg). Brown solid, mp 196-198 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.40-7.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.27(s, 1H), 7.02-7.00 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.20-1.18 (m, 2H), 1.09-1.00 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 156.6, 138.1 136.2, 132.0, 123.6, 114.3, 113.9, 21.7, 9.8, 8.8. ESI-MS M⁺ m/z 172.2.

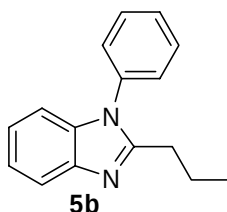


5-Bromo-2-cyclopropylbenzimidazole (3k). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Yield 62% (145 mg). Yellow solid, mp 199-202 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.23-7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 2.51-2.09 (m, 1H), 1.08-1.03 (dd, 4H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 75

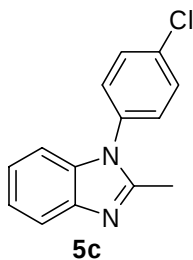
MHz, ppm) δ 159.0, 124.2, 122.6, 121.3, 120.0, 118.7, 113.7, 9.9, 9.5. ESI-MS M^+ m/z 236.6, 238.4.



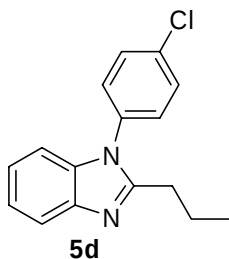
2-Methyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole (5a).⁵ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 62% (129 mg). White solid, mp 70-72 °C (lit.⁵ 49-51 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.80-7.10 (m, 9H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 151.6, 142.6, 136.5, 136.2, 130.0, 128.9, 127.2, 122.7, 122.5, 119.1, 110.0, 14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 208.5.



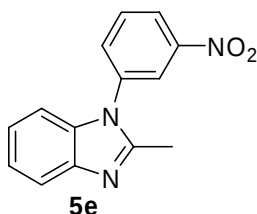
1-Phenyl-2-propylbenzimidazole (5b). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (6:1). Yield 65% (153 mg). Pale yellow viscous liquid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.80-7.10 (m, 9H), 2.77 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.83 (dt, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 0.94 (t, 3H, J = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 155.3, 136.6, 136.1, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 127.5, 122.6, 122.4, 119.2, 29.7, 21.3, 14.0. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 236.5.



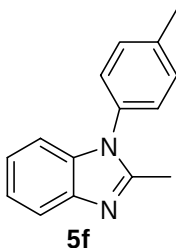
1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole (5c). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (6:1). Yield 70% (169 mg). White solid, mp 99-101 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.75-7.10 (m, 8H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm) δ 142.6, 134.9, 134.7, 130.3, 128.5, 122.9, 122.7, 119.2, 109.8, 14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 242.6, 244.5.



1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-propylbenzimidazole (5d). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1). Yield 57% (154 mg). White solid, mp 71-73 °C . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.85-7.05 (m, 8H), 2.75 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.81 (dt, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 0.94 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 155.1, 142.6, 136.4, 135.0, 134.7, 130.3, 128.8, 122.8, 122.6, 119.3, 109.8, 29.7, 21.3, 14.0. ESI-MS $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ m/z 270.7, 272.7.

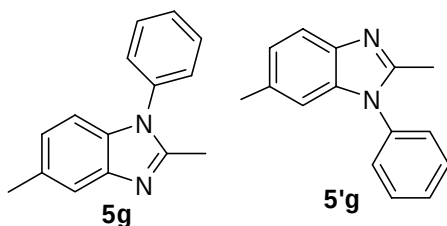


2-Methyl-1-(3-nitrophenyl)benzimidazole (5e). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1). Yield 49% (124 mg). Yellow solid, mp 172-174 °C . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 8.42-8.30 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.12 (m, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 149.3, 142.6, 137.4, 133.1, 131.1, 123.7, 123.4, 123.3, 122.3, 119.5, 109.5, 14.6. ESI-MS $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ m/z 253.6.

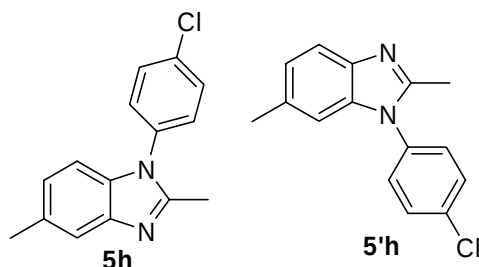


2-Methyl-1-p-tolylbenzimidazole (5f).⁶ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1). Yield 62% (138 mg). Colorless needle crystal, mp 88-90 °C (lit.⁶ 89-91 °C). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.75-7.73 (d, 1H, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 7.83-7.36 (d, 2H, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.28-7.10 (m, 5H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 151.8, 142.6, 139.0, 136.7, 133.5, 130.6, 126.9, 122.6, 122.4, 119.0, 21.3,

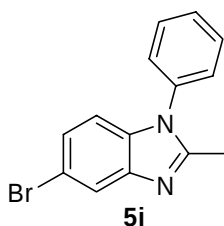
14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 222.5.



Compound 5g and 5'g. Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 to 6:1). Yield 57% (127 mg). Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.60-6.90 (m, 8H), 2.47-2.40 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 151.5, 151.0, 142.9, 140.7, 136.4, 136.3, 132.6, 132.1, 130.0, 128.8, 127.2, 127.1, 124.0, 123.9, 118.9, 118.6, 110.0, 109.5, 21.8, 21.6, 14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 222.5.



Compound 5h and 5'h. Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (6:1 to 1:1). Yield 60% (153mg). Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.68-6.90 (m, 7H), 2.48-2.41 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 150.9, 150.8, 143.0, 140.7, 134.8, 134.7, 134.6, 134.5, 132.9, 132.4, 130.2, 128.5, 128.4, 124.2, 124.1, 119.1, 118.7, 109.8, 109.3, 21.8, 21.6, 14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 256.8, 258.6.



5-Bromo-2-methyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole (5i). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1). Yield 45% (129 mg). White solid, mp 125-127 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm) δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.62-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.0-6.97 (d, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm) δ 152.9, 143.9, 135.7, 135.5, 130.2, 129.2, 127.0, 125.7, 121.9, 115.4, 111.3, 14.5. ESI-MS $[M+H]^+$ m/z 286.8, 288.7.

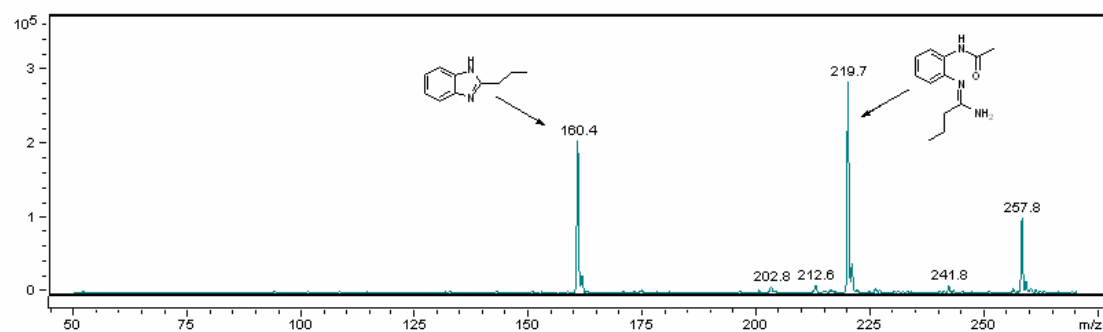


Figure 1. ESI mass spectrum of the reaction mixture after coupling of *o*-bromoacetoanilide with butyramidine hydrochloride for a time

References

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