Supporting Materials

Palladium-Catalyzed Methylation of Aryl C-H Bond by Using Peroxides

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Contents

1) Experimental details and characterization data for all compounds-----S-2

2) Mechanistic investigation -----S-12

3) PDF file of copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra for the new compounds-----S-14

1) Experimental details and characterization data for all new compounds

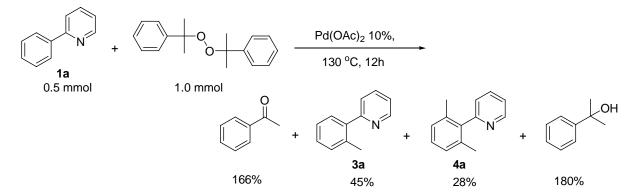
General information:

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃ solution and the chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (δ) relative to internal standard TMS (0 ppm). The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; dd, doublet of doublet of doublet; m, multiplet; q, quartet; dq, doublet of quartet. The coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hertz (Hz). ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained at 100 MHz and referenced to the internal solvent signals (central peak is 77.00 ppm). MS data were obtained by Varian Saturn 2100D GC/MS Spectrometer. HRMS were made by McGill University. IR spectra were recorded by a Nexus 670 Avator FTIR Spectrometer and an ABB Bomem MB100 instrument. Flash column chromatography was performed over SORBENT silica gel 30-60 µm. Thin layer chromatography was performed by using Sorbent Silica Gel 60 F₂₅₄ TLC plates and visualized with ultraviolet light.

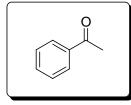
Substrates **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1h** and **1i** were purchased from Aldrich Corp. Other substrates **3a**, **1e**, **1f** and **1g** were prepared via Suzuki coupling of the corresponding boronic acid and 2-bromopyridine according to the literature procedure. ^[1] **1j** was prepared according to the literature^[2].

General procedure:

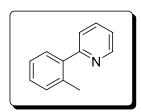
Methylation of 2-phenylpyridine with dicumyl peroxide:



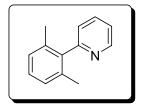
To a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine (1a) (79 mg, 0.5 mmol) and dicumyl peroxide (270 mg, 1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 130°C for 12hrs under nitrogen atmosphere. After that, the resulting mixture was filtered through a short silica gel in a pipette eluting with methylene chloride. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by silica gel column separation (eluted with hexane/methylene chloride = 1:2) to give acetophenone (99 mg, 166% based on 2-phenylpyridine), the desired product **3a** (35 mg, 41% based on 2-phenylpyridine), a second product **4a** (29 mg, 32% based on 2-phenylpyridine) and 2-phenylpropan-2-ol (122 mg, 180% based on 2-phenylpyridine).



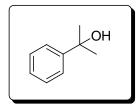
Acetophenone.^[3] Register Number [98-86-2]. An oil; 99 mg (166% based on 2-phenyl pyridine); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 7.80-7.95(m, 2H), 7.60-7.54(m, 1H), 7.50-7.44(m, 2H), 2.61(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 197.9, 136.8, 132.9, 128.3, 128.1, 26.4.



2-*o***-Tolylpyridine** (**3a**).^[4] Colorless oil; 35 mg (41% based on 2-phenylpyridine). Register Number [10273-89-9]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.71-8.69(m, 1H), 7.74(ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.39(m, 2H), 7.31-7.22(m, 4H), 2.37(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.2, 149.4, 140.6, 136.4, 136.0, 131.0, 129.8, 128.5, 126.1, 124.3, 121.9, 20.5.



2-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)pyridine (**4a**).^[5] Colorless oil; 29 mg (32% based on 2-phenyl pyridine). Register Number [10273-91-3]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.66-8.62(m, 1H), 7.68(ddd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.10(m, 3H), 7.04-7.01(m, 2H), 1.97(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.1, 149.9, 136.5, 136.0, 128.1, 127.7, 124.7, 121.9 (possibly overlapped), 20.4.

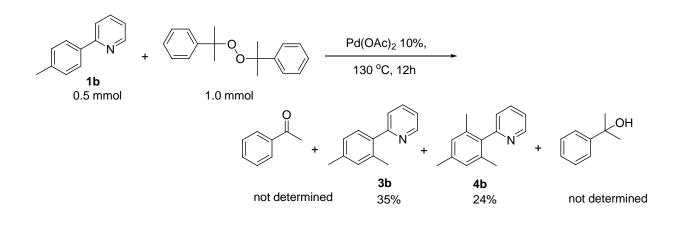


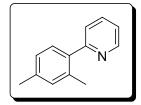
2-Phenylpropan-2-ol.^[3] Colorless oil; 122 mg (180% based on 2-phenyl pyridine). Register Number [617-94-7]. An oil; 122 mg (180% based on 2-phenylpyridine); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 7.52-7.48(m, 2H), 7.38-7.32(t, J = 15 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.22(m, 1H), 1.59(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 149.0, 128.0, 126.5, 124.3, 72.4, 31.6.

Methylation of other substrates with dicumyl peroxide

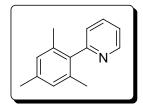
The characteristic data for methylation products were provided in the following. Acetophenone and 2-phenylpropan-2-ol were observed by-products in all cases; however, their yields were not determined during the separation by column.

Methylation of 1b with dicumyl peroxide:



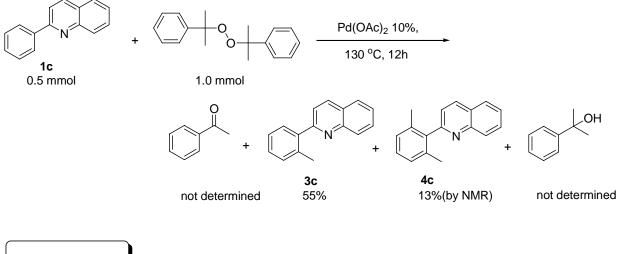


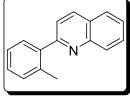
2-(2,4-Mimethylphenyl)pyridine (3b).^[5] Following the general reaction procedure by using **1b** as the substrate, after separation by column chromatography on silica gel compound **3b** was obtained as a colorless oil (35 mg, 35% based on **1b**). Register Number [914253-86-4]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.69-8.67(m, 1H), 7.72(ddd, *J* = 8.0, 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.20(m, 1H), 7.10-7.08(m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.34(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.2, 149.3, 138.2, 137.8, 136.3, 135.8, 131.7, 129.8, 126.8, 124.3, 121.6, 21.4, 20.5.



2-Mesitylpyridine (4b).^[6] By following the general reaction procedure, 4b was obtained from 1b as a colorless oil (24 mg, 24% based on 1b). Register Number [75722-64-4]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.72-8.70(m, 1H), 7.74(ddd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.21(m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.01(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.2, 149.8, 137.9, 137.6, 136.4, 135.9, 128.5, 124.9, 121.7, 21.3, 20.3.

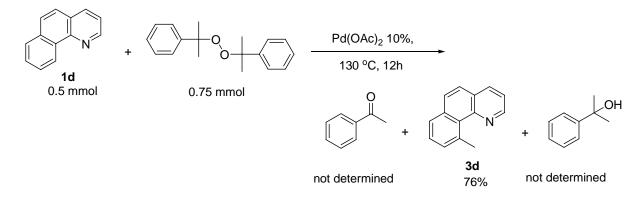
Methylation of 1c with dicumyl peroxide:

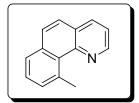




2-o-Tolylquinoline (**3c**).^[7] By following the general reaction procedure, **3c** was obtained from **1c** as a viscous oil (60 mg, 55% based on **1c**). Register Number [52146-06-2]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.21(d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17(d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86(d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74(ddd, J = 7.6, 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.49(m, 3H), 7.37-7.30(m, 3H), 2.42(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.5, 148.1, 140.9, 136.3, 136.2, 131.1, 129.9(two peaks), 129.8, 128.8, 127.7, 127.0, 126.7, 126.3, 122.6, 20.6.

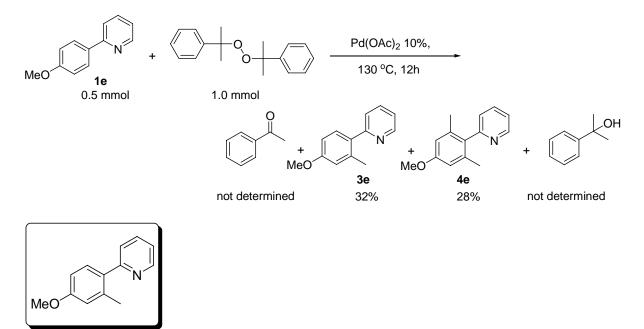
Methylation of 1d with dicumyl peroxide:



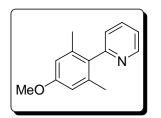


10-Methylbenzo[h]quinoline (**3d**).^[5] By following the general reaction procedure except that 0.75 mmol of dicumyl peroxide was used, compound **3d** was obtained as a white solid from **1d** (73 mg, 76% based on **1d**). Register Number [914253-93-3]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 9.01(dd, J = 4.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11(dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.75(m, 2H), 7.61(d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.52(m, 2H), 7.44(dd, J = 8.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.35(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 149.2, 147.4, 139.0, 135.5, 135.4, 131.4, 130.1, 129.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.0, 125.7, 120.8, 27.5.

Methylation of 1e with dicumyl peroxide:

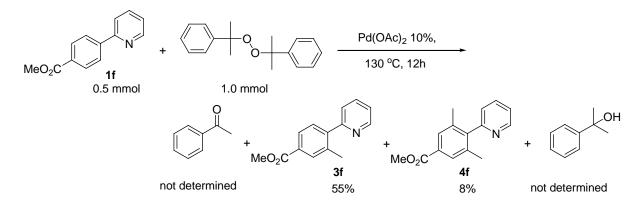


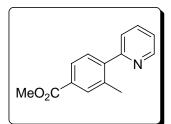
2-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)pyridine (3e).^[4] By following the general reaction procedure, **3e** was obtained from **1e** as a colorless oil (32 mg, 32% based on **1e**). Register Number [521958-77-0]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.68-8.66(m, 1H), 7.71(ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35(m, 2H), 7.22-7.19(m, 1H), 6.83-6.81(m, 2H), 3.83(s, 3H), 2.37(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 159.9, 159.7, 149.3, 137.6, 136.3, 133.4, 131.2, 124.3, 121.5, 116.3, 111.5, 55.5, 20.9.



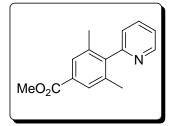
2-(4-Methoxy-2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridine (**4e**). By following the general reaction procedure, **4e** was obtained from **1e** as a colorless oil (30 mg, 28% based on **1e**). IR(liquid): 3047, 3000, 2954, 2922, 2837, 1607, 1586, 1563, 1465, 1424, 1376, 1318, 1283, 1193, 1156, 1075, 1021, 935, 855, 794, 752 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.69-8.68(m, 1H), 7.74-7.69(m, 1H), 7.25-7.18(m, 2H), 6.64(s, 2H), 3.79(s, 3H), 2.02(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.0, 159.1, 149.8, 137.6, 136.4, 133.6, 125.3, 121.7, 113.1, 55.4, 20.7; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 212(100), 197, 181, 168, 154, 141. HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₅ON: 213.1154; found: 213.1139.

Methylation of 1f with dicumyl peroxide:



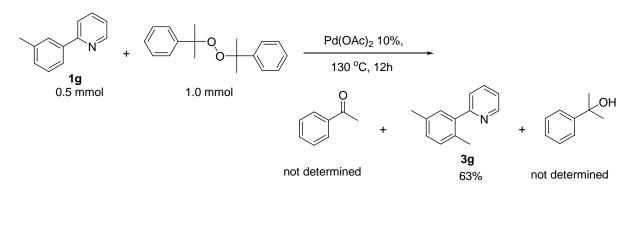


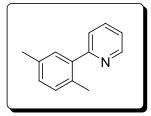
2-(4-Methoxycarbonyl-2-methylphenyl)pyridine (3f). By following the general reaction procedure, **3f** was obtained from **1f** as a colorless oil (62 mg, 55% based on **1f**). IR (KBr pellet): v_{max} 2952, 1720, 1586, 1468, 1290, 1251, 1198, 1112, 764 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.70-8.69(dd, J = 5.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.96(s, 1H), 7.93(d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77(m, 1H), 7.46(d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.40(d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28(m, 1H), 3.91(s, 3H), 2.39(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 167.0, 158.9, 149.3, 144.6, 136.2, 136.1, 131.8, 129.7, 129.7, 127.0, 124.0, 122.1, 52.0, 20.2; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₄NO₂⁺¹(M+1): 228.1019; found: 228.1012.



Methyl 3,5-dimethyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)benzoate (4f). By following the general reaction procedure, 4f was obtained from 1f as a colorless oil (10 mg, 8% based on 1f). IR (KBr pellet): v_{max} 2951, 1722, 1586, 1436, 1315, 1219, 1121, 771 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, ppm) δ 8.70-8.69(dd, J = 4.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76(s, 2H), 7.73-7.72(m, 1H), 7.28-7.23(m, 1H), 7.19-7.16(d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.88(s, 3H), 2.04(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 167.1, 158.9, 149.7, 144.8, 136.4, 136.1, 129.2, 128.6, 123.9, 122.0, 51.9, 20.0. HRMS calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}NO_2^{+1}$ (M+1): 242.1181; found: 242.1186.

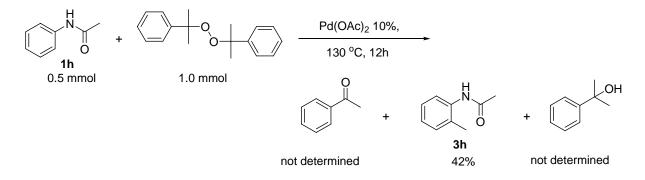
Methylation of 1g with dicumyl peroxide:

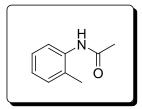




2-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)pyridine (3g). By following the general reaction procedure, **3g** was obtained from **1g** as a colorless oil (58 mg, 63% based on **1g**). IR (KBr pellet): v_{max} 2922, 1588, 1465, 1426, 793, 750 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.71(m, 1H), 7.75(dt, *J* = 8, 2 Hz, 1H), 7.41(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.11 (m, 4H), 2.37(s, 3H), 2.33(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 160.0, 149.2, 140.2, 135.9, 135.2, 132.4, 130.6, 130.2, 128.9, 124.0, 121.4, 20.8, 19.7; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N⁺¹(M+1): 184.1121; found: 184.1118.

Methylation of 1h with dicumyl peroxide:

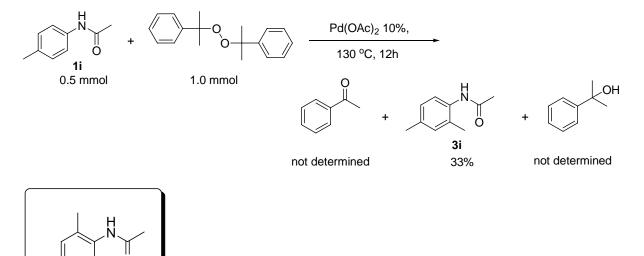




*N-o-***Tolylacetamide (3h).**^[8] By following the general reaction procedure, **3h** was obtained from **1h** as a pale yellow solid (31 mg, 42% based on **1h**). Register Number [120-66-1]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 7.68(d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.13(m, 3H), 7.07(dd, *J* = 6.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.23(s, 3H), 2.17(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 168.8, 135.8, 130.7, 129.9, 126.9, 125.6, 123.9, 24.4, 18.0.

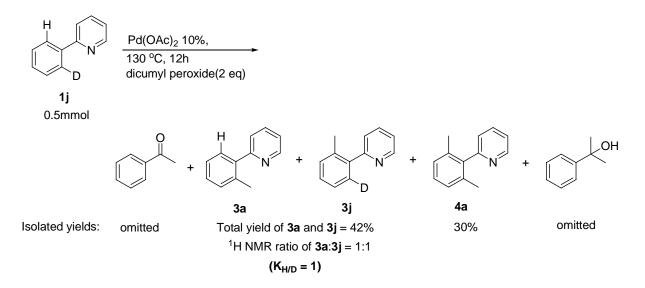
Methylation of 1i with dicumyl peroxide:

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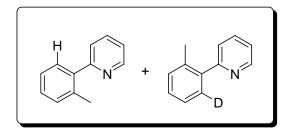


N-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)acetamide (3i).^[9] By following the general reaction procedure, 3i was obtained from 1i as a pale yellow solid (27 mg, 33% based on 1i). Register Number [2050-43-3]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 7.48(d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14(s, 1H), 7.01-6.97(m, 2H), 2.28(s, 3H), 2.19(s, 3H), 2.16(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, ppm) δ 168.9, 135.5, 133.1, 131.4, 130.5, 127.4, 124.3, 24.3, 21.1, 18.0.

2) Mechanistic investigation: Isotope effect



To a mixture of 2-phenyl pyridine **1j** (80 mg, 0.5 mmol) and dicumyl peroxide (270 mg, 1.0 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 130°C for 12hr under nitrogen atmosphere. After that, the resulting mixture was filtered through a short silica gel in a pipette eluting with methylene chloride. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluting with hexane/methylene chloride = 1:2), to give acetophenone (its yield was not determined), the mono-methylated product **3a** and **3j** (overall 35 mg, 42% based on **1j**), ¹H NMR analysis showed that the ratio of *ortho*-proton product **3a** to *ortho*-deuterium product **3j** is 1:1 (Compared with the ¹H NMR spectrum of pure **3a**, the integration of the peaks at 7.40 was 1.48 instead of 2). Then the second product **4a** (28 mg, 30% based on **1j**), and 2-phenylpropan-2-ol (its yield was also omitted) were eluted successively.



3a and **3j** (crude NMR ratio of **3a** and **3j** = 1:1)

Colorless oil; 35 mg (42% based on **1j**). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, ppm) δ 8.71-8.69(m, 1H), 7.76-7.72(m, 1H), 7.41-7.39(m, 1.5H), 7.31-7.22(m, 4H), 2.37(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, ppm) δ 160.0, 149.2, 140.3, 136.1, 135.7, 130.7, 129.6, 128.2, 125.8, 125.7, 124.1, 121.6, 20.3. MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 170, 169(100), 168, 167.

References:

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