

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Vanadium-Catalyzed Oxidative C(CO)–C(CO) Bond Cleavage for C–N Bond Formation: One Pot Domino Transformation of 1,2-Diketones and Amidines into Imides and Amides

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I. Table S1: The screening of metal catalyst for the reaction of benzil (**1a**) and *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2aa**)^a

Reaction scheme: Benzil (**1a**) + *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2aa**) $\xrightarrow[\text{air, rt, 48 h}]{\text{Cat. (20 mol \%), H}_2\text{O (5 equiv.), DMF}}$ [Intermediate **3a**] \rightarrow Product **4aa** + Product **5a**

Entry	Cat. (20 mol%)	Yield of products (%) ^b			Recovery of 1a (%)
		3a	4aa	5a	
1	none	0	0	0	98
2	Cu(NO ₃) ₂ ·xH ₂ O	0	0	0	96
3	CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O	0	0	0	94
4	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O	26	0	0	67
5	CuCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	38	0	0	55
6	CuBr	47	0	0	48
7	CuI	55	0	0	40
8	Cu(OTf) ₂	52	21	22	18
9 ^c	Cu(OTf) ₂	50	24	25	10
10 ^d	Cu(OTf) ₂	48	27	28	15
10 ^e	Cu(OTf) ₂	45	10	12	16
11	AgOTf	trace	0	0	n.d.
12	Ag ₂ CO ₃	0	0	0	n.d.
13	AgNO ₃	0	0	0	n.d.
14	In(OTf) ₃	0	0	0	n.d.
15	Zn(OTf) ₂	0	0	0	n.d.
16	Sc(OTf) ₃	trace	0	0	n.d.
17	FeCl ₃	trace	0	0	n.d.

^aA mixture of **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2aa** (0.6 mmol), H₂O (45 μL) and 20 mol% catalyst in dry DMF (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 48 h under air. ^bIsolated yields of products based on **1a**. ^cThe reaction was run for 96 h. ^dThe reaction was carried out with 50 mol% of Cu(OTf)₂. ^eThe reaction was conducted at 80 °C. n.d.: not determined.

II. Table S2. The screening of solvent^a

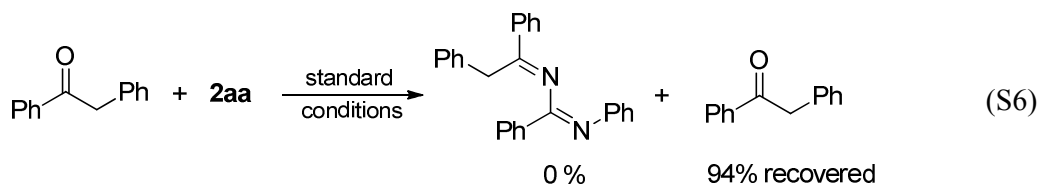
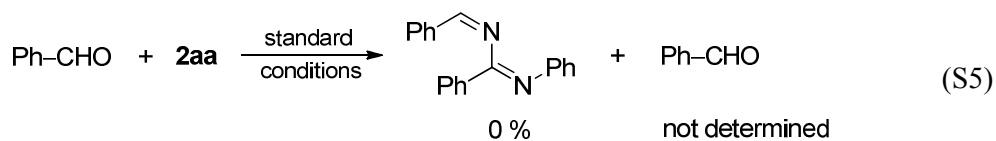
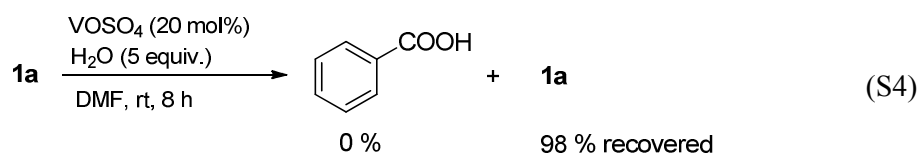
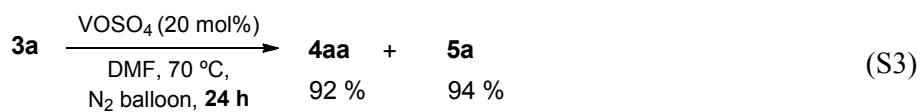
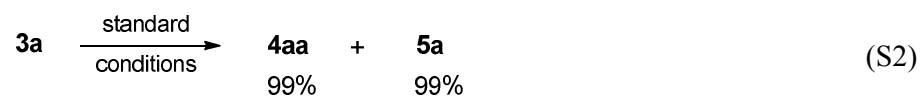
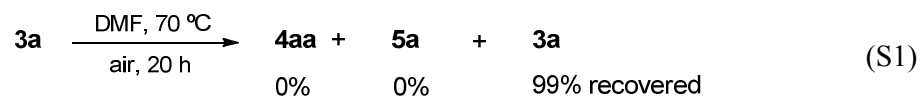
Reaction scheme: **1a** + **2aa** $\xrightarrow[\text{solvent, air, 70 } ^\circ\text{C, 20 h}]{\text{VOSO}_4 \text{ (20 mol\%)}}$ **3a** \longrightarrow **4aa** + **5a**

Entry	Solvent	H ₂ O (equiv.)	Yield of products (%) ^b		
			3a	4aa	5a
1	n-hexane	-	0	0	0
2	toluene	-	8	0	0
3	1,4-dioxane	-	trace	0	0
4	DCM	-	0	0	0
5	DCE	-	trace	0	0
6	ethyl acetate	-	trace	0	0
7	acetone	H ₂ O (5)	25	trace	trace
8	ethanol	H ₂ O (5)	trace	0	0
9	THF	H ₂ O (5)	32	trace	trace
10 ^c	CH ₃ CN	H ₂ O (5)	0	76	80
11 ^d	DMSO	H ₂ O (5)	0	82	88
12 ^e	DMA	H ₂ O (5)	0	85	84

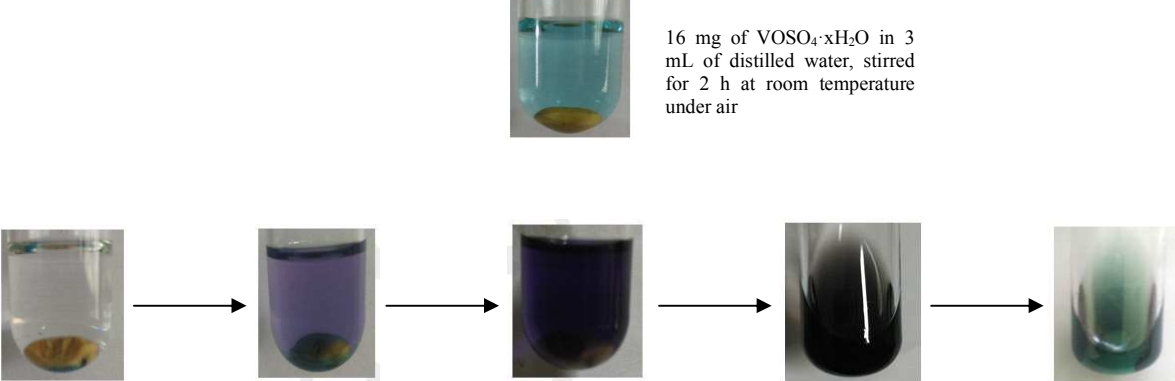
^aA mixture of **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2aa** (0.6 mmol) and 20 mol% VOSO₄·xH₂O in solvent (3 mL) was stirred at 70 °C for 20 h under air. ^bIsolated yields of products based on **1a**.

^cThe reaction was run for 48 h. ^dThe reaction was run for 36 h. ^eThe reaction was run for 32 h.

III. Control experiments



IV. Colour change during the reaction of benzil (1a) with N-phenylbenzimidamide (2aa):



16 mg of $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in 3 mL of distilled water, stirred for 2 h at room temperature under air

16 mg of $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and H_2O (45 μL) in 3 mL dry DMF

After 1 h of stirring at room temperature under air

After 2 h

On addition of **1a** and **2aa**

After 8 h

Note:

Whenever a mixture of 1,2-diketone, amidine, H_2O and 20 mol% of $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in dry DMF was heated at 70 $^\circ\text{C}$, the color of the reaction mixture turned black within 1 h, which then turned to green in most of the cases.

v. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra copies of compounds **3a**, **4**, **5** and **6**

