

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Unexpected C=N bond formation *via* NaI-catalyzed oxidative de-tetra-hydrogenative cross-couplings between N, *N*-dimethyl aniline and sulfamides

Yang Zheng,^a Jincheng Mao,*^{a,b} Jie Chen,^a Guangwei Rong,^a Defu Liu,^a Hong Yan,^a Yongjian Chi^a and Xinfang Xu*^a

^aKey Laboratory of Organic Synthesis of Jiangsu Province, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, P. R. *China*.

^bState Key Laboratory of Oil and Gas Reservoir Geology and Exploitation, Southwest Petroleum University, Chengdu, 610500, P. R. *China*

Fax: (+86)512-6588-0403
E-mail: jcmao@suda.edu.cn

Table of Contents

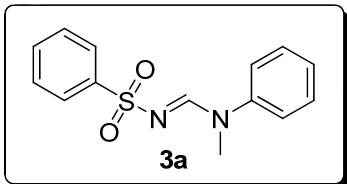
1. General information	S2
2. Characterization of the corresponding products	S3-S10
3. Mechanism Study of the Ligand	S10-S12
4. Intermediates C Identification	S13-S14
5. HRMS Observation of the Product from <i>N,N</i>-Diethylaniline	S15
6. Reference	S15
7. NMR Spectra	S16-S39

General experimental: All reactions were carried out in air. Solvents were dried and degassed by the standard methods. Benzene sulfonamide, *N,N*-dimethyl aniline and the additives used in this reaction were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. *N,N*-disubstituted aniline derivatives were prepared according to the reference.¹ Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (300–400 mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 200–300 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on a Varian Inova-400 NMR spectrometer (300 or 400 MHz) with TMS as an internal reference. Products were characterized by comparison of ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and TOF-MS data in the literatures.

General procedure for the preparation of benzene-substituted sulfonamide.² To a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added benzene-substituted sulfonyl chloride (1.46 mmol) and ammonium hydroxide (4.0 mL) in air. The reaction mixture was kept stirring at 0 °C for 3-4 hours. At the end of the reaction, the aqueous layer was extracted with ether and washed with water and brine, the organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography gel (eluent: Hexanes/EtOAc = 90:10 to 80:20) to afford the pure product sulfonamide **1** in 80%~90% yield.

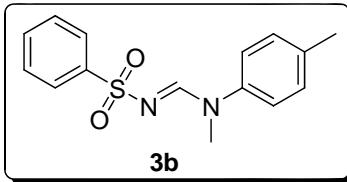
General procedure for the NaI-catalyzed oxidative de-tetra-hydrogenative cross-coupling reactions. To a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added sulfonamide **1** (0.5 mmol), **2** aniline (2.1 mmol), NaI (sodium iodide, 0.01 mmol, 15.0 mg), TBHP (*tert*-butyl hydroperoxide, 5-6 M in decane, 1.5 mmol, 0.27 mL), 1,10-phenanthroline monohydrate (0.05 mmol, 9.0 mg) and ethyl acetate (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was kept stirring at 80 °C for 12 hours. At the end of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. After removal of the solvent, the residue was purified to column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexanes/EtOAc = 90:10 to 80:20) to give the pure product **3**.

(E)-N-Methyl-N-phenyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



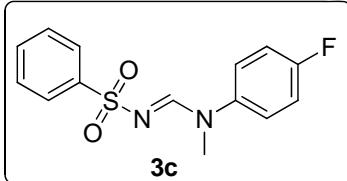
Yellow solid; mp: 102-103 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.6, 143.2, 141.8, 132.2, 129.9, 128.9, 127.5, 126.7, 122.1, 36.1; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 275.0854, found 275.0859.

(E)-N-Methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)-N-p-tolylformimidamide



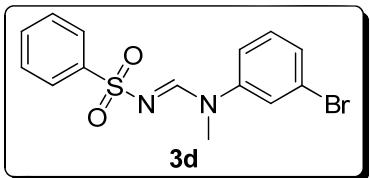
Yellow solid; mp: 105-106 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.5, 141.9, 140.8, 137.5, 132.1, 130.4, 128.8, 126.7, 122.1, 36.3, 20.9; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 289.1011, found 289.1018.

(E)-N-(4-Fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



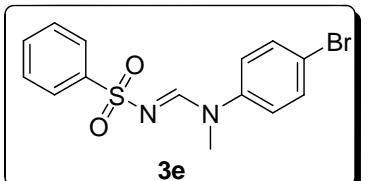
Yellow solid; mp: 120-121 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.51(s, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49(m, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 3.44(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 161.5 (d, $J = 250.0$ Hz), 158.5, 141.6, 139.4, 132.3, 128.9, 126.7, 124.4 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 116.8 (d, $J = 22.9$ Hz), 36.6; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 293.0760, found 293.0771.

(E)-N-(3-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



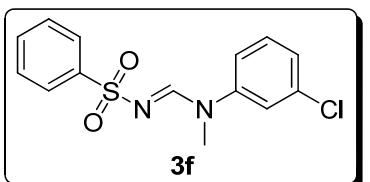
Yellow solid; mp: 128-130 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 3.44(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.3, 144.3, 141.4, 132.4, 131.2, 130.4, 128.9, 126.8, 125.1, 123.4, 120.6, 36.0; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 352.9959, found 352.9968.

(E)-N-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



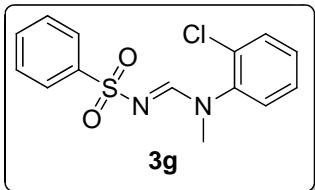
Yellow solid; mp: 128-129 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.2, 142.2, 141.5, 133.0, 132.4, 128.9, 126.7, 123.6, 120.8, 36.0; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 352.9959, found 352.9962.

(E)-N-(3-Chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



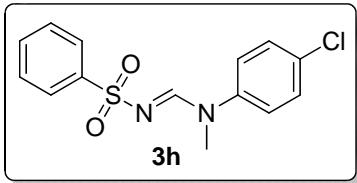
Yellow solid; mp: 124-125 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.22(t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.43(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.3, 144.2, 141.4, 135.5, 132.4, 131.0, 128.9, 127.5, 126.7, 122.2, 120.1, 36.0; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 309.0465, found 309.0466.

(E)-N-(2-Chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



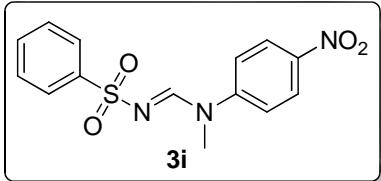
Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 160.1, 141.7, 140.5, 132.2, 131.4, 131.0, 130.2, 128.8, 128.3, 126.8, 37.1; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 309.0465, found 309.0466.

(E)-N-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



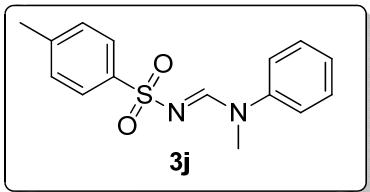
Yellow solid; mp: 110-111 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.3, 141.7, 141.5, 133.1, 132.3, 130.0, 128.9, 126.7, 123.3, 36.1; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 309.0465, found 309.0467.

(E)-N-Methyl-N-(4-nitrophenyl)-N'-(phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



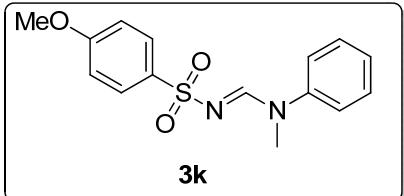
Yellow solid; mp: 128-130 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.20-8.17 (m, 1H), 8.10 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 3.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.2, 149.0, 144.1, 141.0, 132.6, 131.0, 129.0, 127.3, 126.8, 121.8, 116.6, 35.9; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}$ 320.0705, found 320.0709.

(E)-N-Methyl-N-phenyl-N'-tosylformimidamide



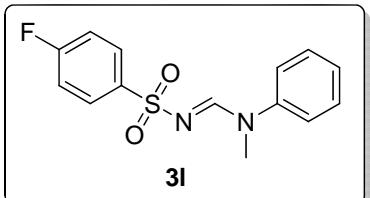
Yellow solid; mp: 108-110 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 3.45(s, 3H), 2.43(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.4, 143.2, 142.9, 138.9, 129.9, 129.5, 127.3, 126.8, 122.1, 36.1, 21.5; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 289.1011, found 289.1013.

(E)-N'-(4-Methoxyphenylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



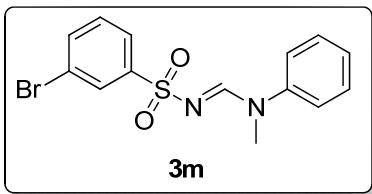
Yellow solid; mp: 101-104 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 162.6, 158.2, 143.3, 133.6, 129.9, 128.8, 127.3, 122.0, 114.0, 55.6, 36.0; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ 305.0960, found 305.0971.

(E)-N'-(4-Fluorophenylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



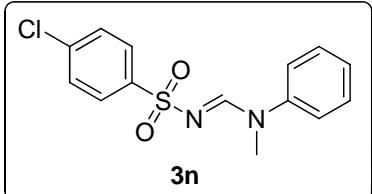
Yellow solid; mp: 125-128 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.98-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 3.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 164.9 (d, J = 252 Hz), 158.5, 143.1, 137.9, 129.9, 129.5 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 127.5, 122.2, 116.0 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 36.2; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 293.0760, found 293.0769.

(E)-N'-(3-Bromophenylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



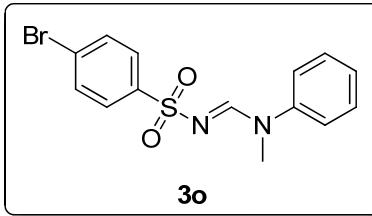
Yellow solid; mp: 99-100 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.54(s, 1H), 8.07(t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41(m, 2H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.7, 143.7, 143.0, 135.2, 130.5, 130.0, 129.7, 127.7, 125.3, 122.7, 122.2, 36.3; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 352.9959, found 352.9963.

(E)-N'-(4-Chlorophenylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



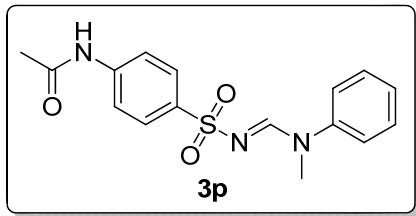
Yellow solid; mp: 96-99 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.99(d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.6, 143.1, 140.4, 138.6, 129.9, 129.1, 128.2, 127.6, 122.2, 36.2; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 309.0465, found 309.0466.

(E)-N'-(4-Bromophenylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



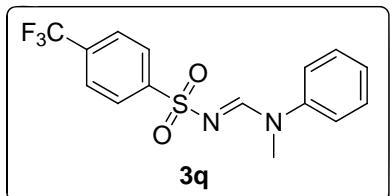
Yellow solid; mp: 105-106 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 -7.44 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.6, 143.1, 140.9, 132.1, 129.9, 128.4, 127.6, 127.1, 122.2, 36.2; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 352.9959, found 352.9970.

(E)-N-(4-(N-((Methyl(phenyl)amino)methylene)sulfamoyl)phenyl)acetamide



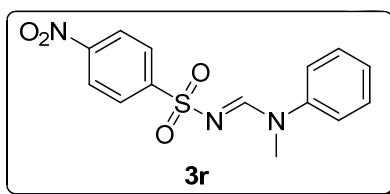
Yellow solid; mp: 200-203 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) (δ , ppm) 10.32 (s, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.82-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) (δ , ppm) 169.4, 158.8, 143.5, 143.1, 136.0, 130.1, 128.0, 127.4, 122.5, 119.0, 36.0, 24.6; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$ 332.1069, found 332.1078.

(E)-N-Methyl-N-phenyl-N'-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenylsulfonyl)formimidamide



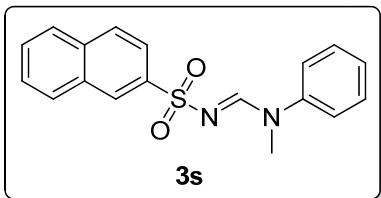
Yellow solid; mp: 102-104 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.9, 145.4, 143.0, 133.8 (d, $J = 32.7$ Hz), 130.0, 127.8, 127.3, 126.0 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 122.3, 36.3; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 343.0728, found 343.0730.

(E)-N-Methyl-N'-(4-nitrophenylsulfonyl)-N-phenylformimidamide



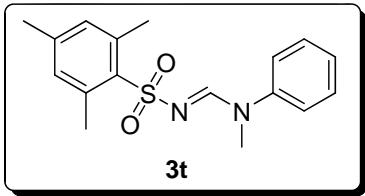
Yellow solid; mp: 148-149 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 3.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 159.0, 149.8, 147.6, 142.9, 130.0, 128.1, 127.9, 124.1, 122.3, 36.5; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}$ 320.0705, found 320.0708.

(E)-N-Methyl-N'-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-N-phenylformimidamide



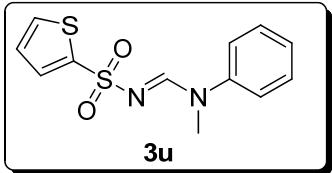
Yellow solid; mp: 132-134 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.63 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.88 (m, 4H), 7.63-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 3.45 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.6, 143.2, 138.7, 134.7, 132.2, 129.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 122.6, 122.1, 36.2; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 325.1011, found 325.1017.

(E)-N'-(Mesylsulfonyl)-N-methyl-N-phenylformimidamide



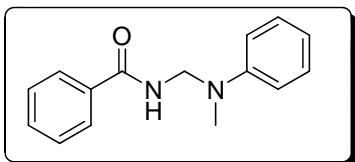
Yellow solid; mp: 151-152 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 157.7, 143.4, 141.7, 138.8, 135.8, 131.6, 129.9, 127.2, 122.0, 36.0, 23.0, 20.9; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 317.1324, found 317.1329.

(E)-N-Methyl-N-phenyl-N'-(thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)formimidamide



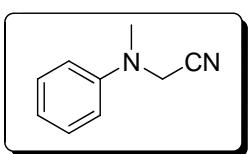
Yellow solid; mp: 105-106 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 158.6, 143.1, 143.0, 131.4, 131.2, 129.9, 127.6, 127.2, 122.2, 36.3; HRMS (TOF MS Cl^+) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ 281.0418, found 281.0426.

N-(*Methyl(phenyl)amino)methyl)benzamide*



White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.80 (m, 3H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 5.11 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 168.0, 147.9, 134.1, 131.7, 129.5, 128.6, 127.0, 118.3, 113.3, 58.2, 38.0.

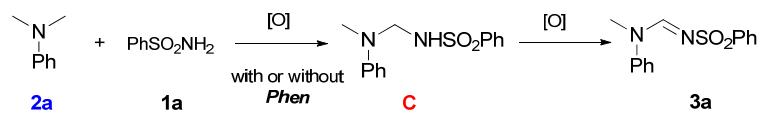
2-(Methyl(phenyl)amino)acetonitrile



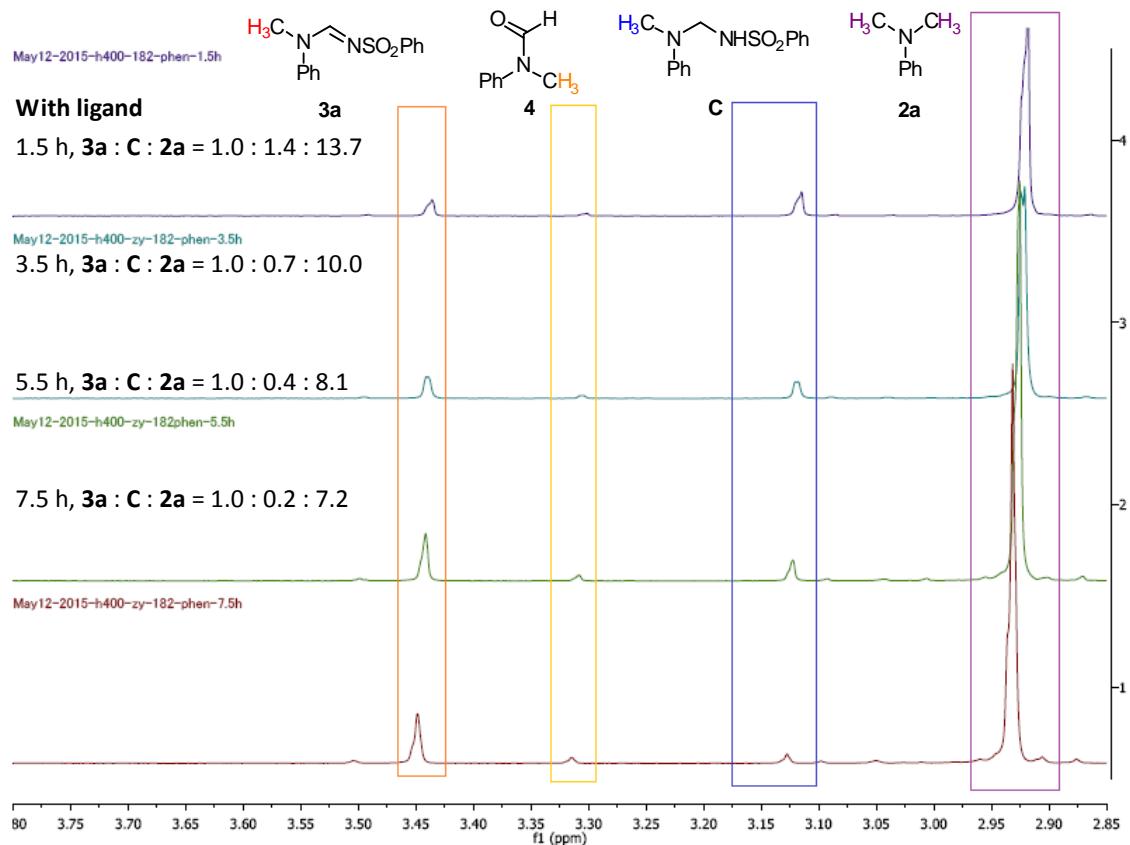
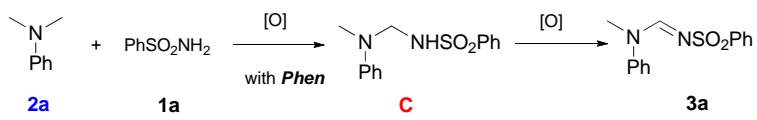
Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (s, 1H), 3.03 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (δ , ppm) 147.8, 129.5, 120.2, 115.6, 114.9, 42.3, 39.3.

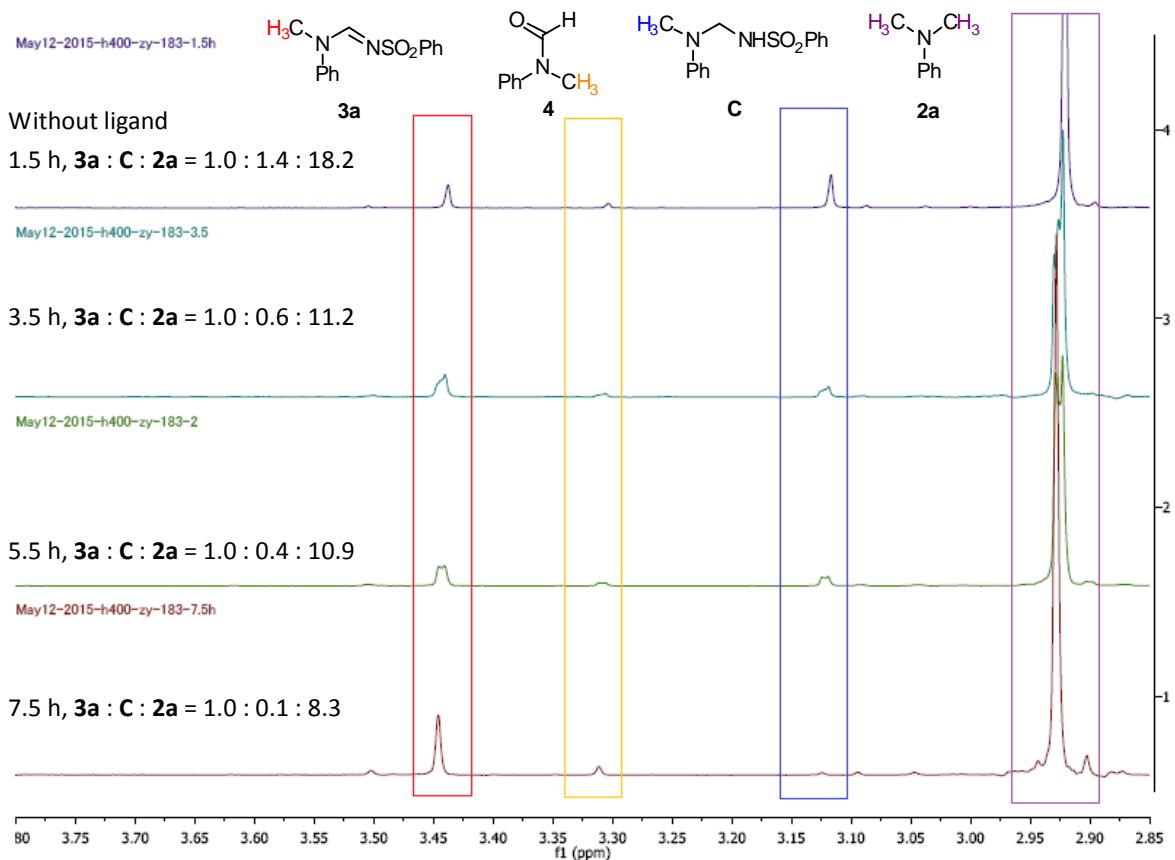
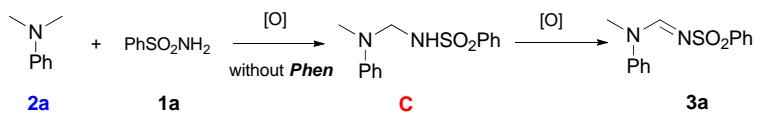
Mechanism Study of the Ligand

We collected the reaction conversion data at 1.5 h, 3.5 h, 5.5 h and 7.5 h for both reactions, and the results are summarized below. With these data, we found that, at various reaction times, the ratio of **3a:C** is almost identical either in the reaction with or without ligand (see the red part in the Table below, and determined from the ratio of integrated absorptions in ^1H NMR spectra that corresponded to the methyl groups with crude reaction mixture); however, the ratio of **3a: 2a** or **C:2a in the reaction with the ligand is higher than the one without the ligand** (see the blue part in the Table below). Although we are still not sure how exactly the ligand works in our system, according to these observation, we can confirm that the ligand assists the first part of the transformation to form the intermediate **C**



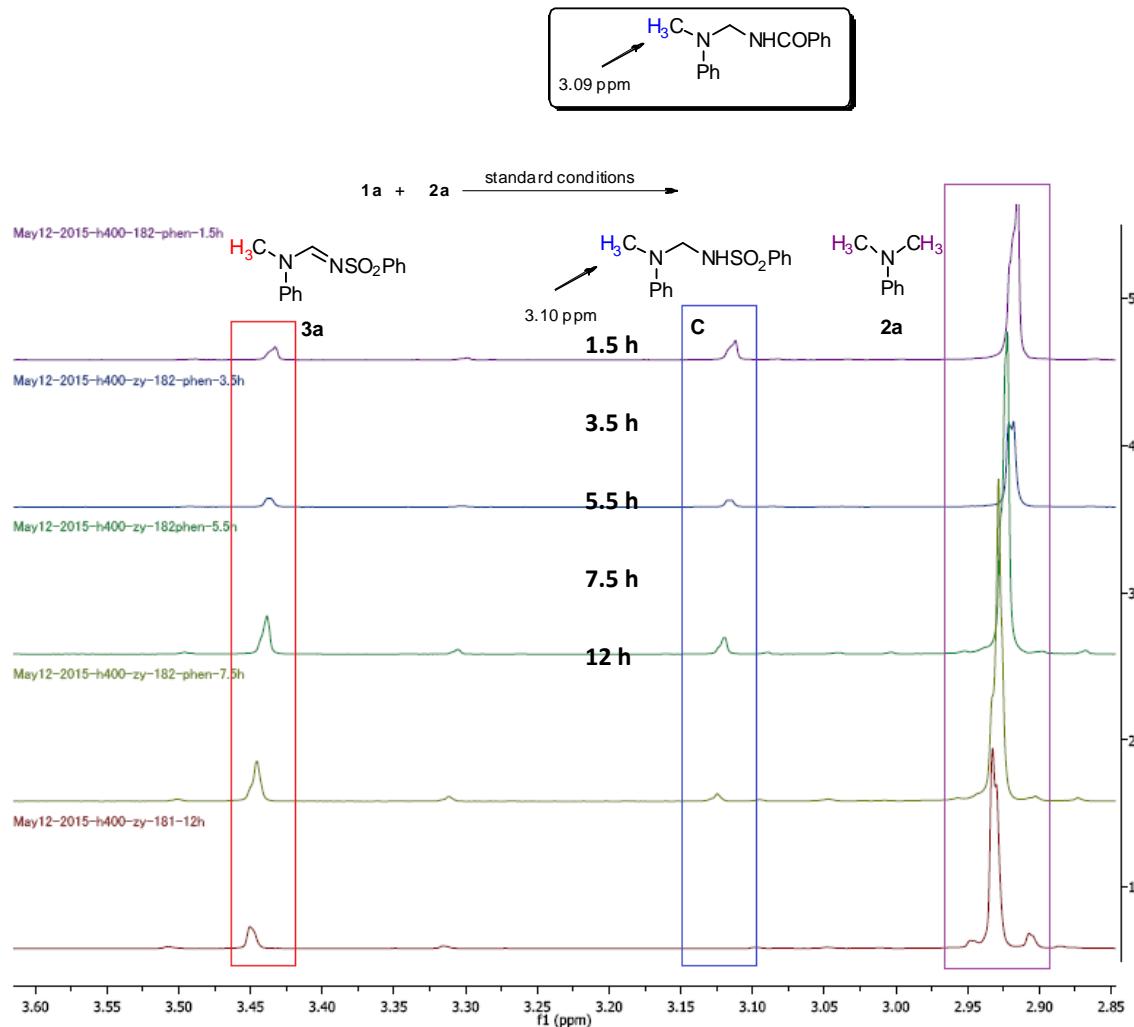
Time	With ligand (3a:C:2a)	Without ligand (3a:C:2a)
1.5 h	1.0: 1.4 :13.7	1.0: 1.4 :18.2
3.5 h	1.0: 0.7 :10.0	1.0: 0.6 :11.2
5.5 h	1.0: 0.4 :8.1	1.0: 0.4 :10.9
7.5 h	1.0: 0.2 :7.2	1.0: 0.1 :8.3



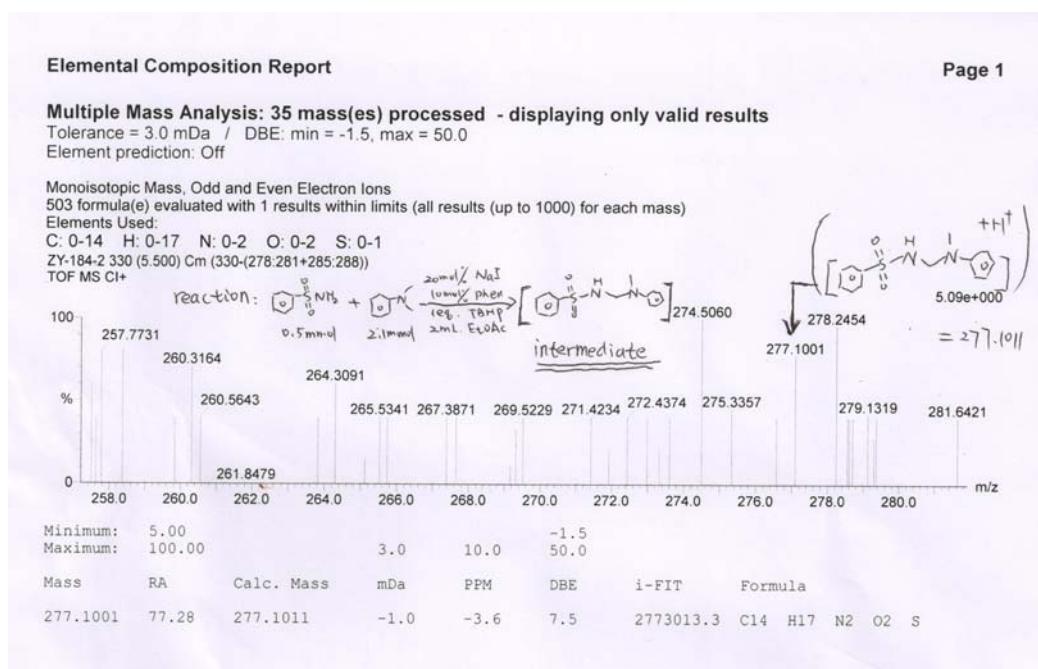


Intermediates C Identification

Proton NMR observation:



HRMS report of the observation of the intermediate C:



HRMS Observation of the Product from *N,N*-Diethylaniline

Elemental Composition Report

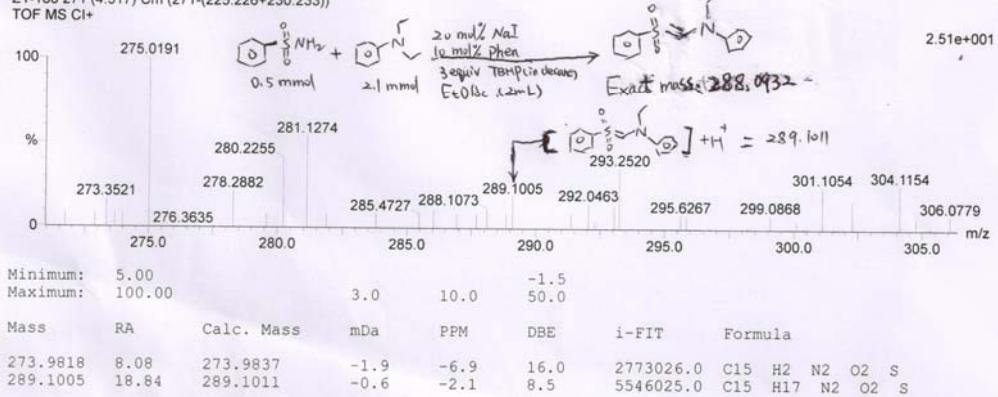
Page 1

Multiple Mass Analysis: 31 mass(es) processed - displaying only valid results

Tolerance = 3.0 mDa / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0
Element prediction: Off

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions
458 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (all results (up to 1000) for each mass)
Elements Used:

C: 0-15 H: 0-17 N: 0-2 O: 0-2 S: 0-1
ZY-188 271 (4.517) Cm (271-(225:226+230:233))
TOF MS Cl+



Reference:

- 1 L. S. Kristen, C. O. Allie and B. F. Matthew, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 16970.
- 2 (a) W. J. Kerr, M. Reid and T. Tuttle, *ACS Catal.*, 2015, **5**, 402; (b) E. Yuriev, D. C. M. Kong and M. N. Iskander, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, 2004, **39**, 835.

