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Copper Promoted radical addition/cyclization of

Azobisisobutyronitrile with Arylacrylamides: a Convenient Process

to Synthesize 3- (2'-cyano Alkyl) Oxindoles

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Supporting Information

Table of Contents

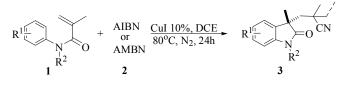
General Remarks	
Experimental Procedure	
Characterization data for all compounds	
Copies of ¹ H , ¹³ C SpectraS7	
Copies of GC-MS Spectra	

General Remarks.

All reagents and solvents were pure analytical grade materials purchased from commercial sources and were used without further purification, if not stated otherwise. All reactions were carried out in a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Merck 60 silica gel was used for chromatography, and Whatman silica gel plates with fluorescence F254 were used for thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis. All products were confirmed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR

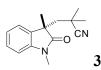
spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 400, and tetramethylsilane (TMS) or $CDCl_3(7.26 \text{ ppm for }^1\text{H NMR}, 77.0 \text{ ppm for }^{13}\text{C NMR})$ was used as a references. Data for ^1H were reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm), and multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). Data for $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ were reported as ppm. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on a Waters Micromass GCT instrument.

Experimental Procedure



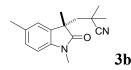
In an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, CuI (0.05 mmol) and **1** (0.5 mmol) was added. Then under nitrogen, 1 mL DCE was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h while **2** (1.5 mmol) dissolved in 1 mL DCE was added through micro injection pump into the mixture. Then the mixture was cooled down to room temperature and filtered through a pad of filter paper with the help of 50 mL of ethyl acetate. After evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (200-300 mesh silica gel) using ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as the eluent to give the pure product **3**(AcOEt / petroleum ether v/v = 1/4). All solid products were further purified by recrystallization.

Date



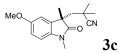
3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-propionitrile:

White solid, m.p. 118-120 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.6, 143.2, 130.9, 128.6, 124.7, 124.0, 122.5, 108.5, 47.0, 46.6, 30.7, 26.7, 27.4, 26.7, 26.4; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₁₈N₂O 242.1419, found 242.1422.



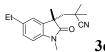
2,2-Dimethyl-3-(1,3,5-trimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-propionitrile:

White solid, m.p. 124-126 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 4H), 2.15 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.6, 140.7, 132.0, 130.9, 128.8, 125.6, 124.1, 108.2, 47.0, 46.5, 30.8, 29.7, 27.5, 26.5, 26.4, 21.2; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O 256.1576, found 256.1585.



3-(5-Methoxy-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 6.95 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dd, $J_1 = 8.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.3, 156.0, 136.7, 132.2, 124.1, 113.2, 112.2, 108.8, 56.0, 47.4, 46.4, 30.8, 29.7, 27.5, 26.4; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O₂ 272.1525, found 272.1526.

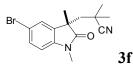


3-(5-Ethyl-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: White solid, m.p. 76-78 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.16-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.65 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.7, 140.9, 138.7, 130.9, 127.7, 124.5, 124.1, 108.2, 47.1, 46.5, 30.8, 29.7, 28.7, 27.5, 26.5, 26.4, 15.9; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₂N₂O₂ 286.1681, found 286.1685.

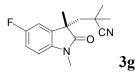
3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-5-trifluoromethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-

dimethyl-propionitrile: White solid, m.p. 114-116 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.24 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.36 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.2, 144.7, 141.9, 132.7, 123.5, 121.9, 121.8, 118.5, 109.0, 47.3, 46.7, 30.6, 29.4, 27.4, 27.2, 26.5; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₁₇F₃N₂O₂ 326.1242, found 326.1244.



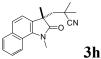
3-(5-Bromo-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: Yellow solid, m.p. 116-118 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 131.5, 127.8, 110.0, 47.2, 46.6, 30.6, 29.6, 27.3, 27.2, 26.5; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₁₇BrN₂O 320.0524, found 320.0524.



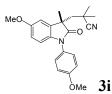
3-(5-Fluoro-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: White solid, m.p. 107-109 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 1H), 3.24 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.2, 160.4, 158.0, 139.1, 139.1, 132.7, 132.7, 123.7, 115.0, 114.8, 112.9, 112.6, 109.0, 109.0, 47.5, 47.5, 46.5, 30.6, 29.7, 27.3, 26.9, 26.5; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₁₇FN₂O 260.1325, found 260.1327.

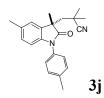


3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[g]indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: Pale yellow solid, m.p. 138-140 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.35 (m, 4H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 2.79 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.67(s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 172.5, 136.4, 135.4, 133.5, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 124.4, 123.9, 122.9, 119.6, 108.8, 52.5, 45.8, 34.8, 30.9, 29.7, 29.5, 27.4; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₂₀N₂O 292.1576, found 292.1581.

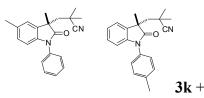


3-[5-Methoxy-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propionitrile: Yellow solid, m.p. 139-140 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.27 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.93 (m, 3H), 6.73-6.67 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.34 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 178.9, 159.1, 156.1, 136.9, 131.9, 127.5, 127.3, 124.3, 114.9, 113.4, 112.1, 110.2, 56.0, 55.6, 47.5, 46.4, 30.9, 30.0, 28.4, 26.3; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₂₂H₂₄N₂O₃ 364.1787, found 364.1789.



3-(3,5-Dimethyl-2-oxo-1-p-tolyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-

propionitrile: Yellow solid, m.p. 153-156 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.30 (s, 4H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 2.40-2.36 (m, 7H), 2.26 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm):179.1, 140.8, 137.9, 132.4, 130.0, 130.6, 130.2, 128.7, 126.0, 125.9, 124.3, 109.6, 47.2, 46.5, 30.9, 30.0, 28.3, 26.3, 21.2, 21.2; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₂₂H₂₄N₂O 332.1889, found 332.1885.

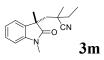


3-(3,5-Dimethyl-2-oxo-1-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-propionitrile and 2,2-Dimethyl-3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-1-p-tolyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-propionitrile:

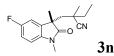
Yellow solid, m.p. 129-130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.54-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.73H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.26H), 2.42-2.37 (m, 4H), 2.31-2.25 (m, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.1, 143.3, 138.1, 131.8, 130.7, 130.3, 129.6, 128.5, 126.2, 126.2, 125.0, 124.2, 122.8, 109.9, 47.2, 46.5, 30.9, 30.0, 28.3, 28.3, 26.4, 21.2; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₂₂N₂O 318.1732, found 318.1732.



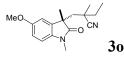
3-(1-Ethyl-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-propionitrile: Colourless liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.36-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89-3.71 (m, 2H), 2.33 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.2, 142.1, 131.1, 128.5, 125.0, 124.1, 122.2, 108.6, 46.9, 46.2, 34.8, 30.8, 29.7, 27.9, 26.3, 12.3; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O 256.1576, found 256.1572.



2-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-2-methyl-butyronitrile: Yellow thick liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.29-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.066.99 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 2.35 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 0.5H), 2.21-1.13 (m, 1H), 1.96 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 0.5H), 1.35-1.18 (m, 5H), 0.93-0.87 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 180.0, 179.5, 143.4, 143.0, 131.5, 130.9, 128.6, 128.5, 124.9, 124.2, 123.2, 122.7, 122.5, 122.2, 108.6, 108.4, 46.9, 46.9, 45.4, 44.5, 35.6, 35.5, 35.2, 33.2, 27.8, 27.6, 26.4, 26.4, 25.8, 22.8, 9.1, 9.0; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O 256.1576, found 256.1579.

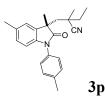


2-(5-Fluoro-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-2-methylbutyronitrile: Thick pale yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.12-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.84 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 0.5H), 2.23 (s, 1H), 2.01 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 0.5H) 1.36-1.48 (m, 5H), 1.04-0.94 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.5 179.0, 160.4, 160.3, 158.0, 157.9, 139.3, 139.3, 139.0, 139.0, 133.3, 133.2, 132.7, 132.6, 123.0, 122.5, 115.0, 114.9, 114.7, 114.7, 113.0, 112.8, 112.4, 112.1, 109.2, 109.1, 109.0, 108.9, 47.4, 47.4, 47.3, 47.3, 45.3, 44.5, 35.5, 35.4, 35.2, 33.4, 27.7, 27.5, 26.5, 26.5, 25.9, 23.0, 9.0, 8.9; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₁₉FN₂O 274.1481, found 274.1486.



2-(5-Methoxy-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-2-methyl-

butyronitrile: Thick pale yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 6.99 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 0.33H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 2H), 1.60-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.38(m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H),0.96 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.7, 156.0, 136.5, 132.1, 123.5, 113.4, 112.3, 108.8, 56.0, 47.3, 44.3, 35.5, 35.4, 28.0, 26.5, 22.5; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₂N₂O₂ 286.1681, found 281.1685.



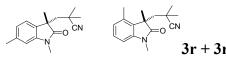
2-(3,5-Dimethyl-2-oxo-1-p-tolyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-2-methyl-

butyronitrile: Yellow solid, m.p. 153-156 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.32-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.27 (m, 5H), 1.66-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.49 (m,1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 179.5, 140.7, 137.9, 132.5, 130.6, 130.2, 128.7, 126.1, 126.0, 123.6, 109.5, 47.1, 44.5, 35.7, 35.6, 28.5, 22.7, 21.2, 21.2, 9.0; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₂₆N₂O 346.2045, found 346.2041.



2,2-Dimethyl-3-(1,3,7-trimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-propionitrile:

White solid; m.p. 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.13 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.61(s, 3H), 2.32 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 180.4, 141.0, 137.9, 132.3, 131.6, 124.0, 122.5, 122.4, 120.2, 46.8, 46.3, 30.7, 29.8, 29.6, 27.8, 26.9, 19.1; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O 256.1576, found 256.1576.



2,2-Dimethyl-3-(1,3,6-trimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-propionitrile and **2,2-Dimethyl-3-(1,3,4-trimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)propionitrile:** Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.26-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 0.38H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 0.62H), 6.76-6.73 (m, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 1.83H), 2.40 (s, 1.15H), 2.38-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 1.85H), 1.32 (s, 1.15H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 180.0, 179.6, 143.4, 143.2, 138.8, 135.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 125.3, 124.5, 124.1, 123.4, 123.0, 109.4, 106.2, 47.7, 46.8, 46.5, 45.2, 30.9, 30.7, 29.7, 29.2, 27.6, 26.6, 26.4, 26.4, 26.3, 26.2, 24.6, 21.9, 18.9; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₀N₂O 256.1576, found 256.1573.



3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-propionamide:

White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5,17 (br, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.64 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 181.0, 180.2, 142.9, 132.0, 127.8, 125.5, 122.3, 107.8, 47.4, 46.4, 41.6, 27.8, 26.3, 22.4; HRMS (TOF MS EI⁺) [M]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₂₀N₂O₂ 260.1525, found 260.1526.

