

Electronic Supplementary Information

Metal Free Visible Light Driven Oxidation of Alcohols to Carbonyls Using 3, 6-Di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4,5-tetrazine (pytz) as Catalyst

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1. General Information

All solvents and commercially available reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used directly. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on EMD precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254, Art 5715) and visualized by fluorescence quenching under UV light. Column chromatography was performed on Silica Gel (60– 120 Mesh). The synthesis of 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4,5-*s*-tetrazine (**pytz**) and 3,6-diphenyl-1,2,4,5-tetrazine (**phtz**) were carried out following the method reported earlier.¹ A Xenon lamp with a power of 300 W equipped with a cut-off filter ($\lambda > 420$ nm) was used as a visible light source. The reaction was carried out in a 100 mL double walled quartz beaker flask having water inlet and outlet to maintain the room temperature of the reaction vessel. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded using 300, 400MHz NMR spectrometers. All ¹H data were reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 0$) in the deuterated solvents. All GC analyses were performed on a GC system with an FID detector using a J & W HP-5 column (30 m, 0.32 mm internal diameter) and *n*-decane as the internal standard. Melting points were determined in open capillaries and are uncorrected.

2. Experimental

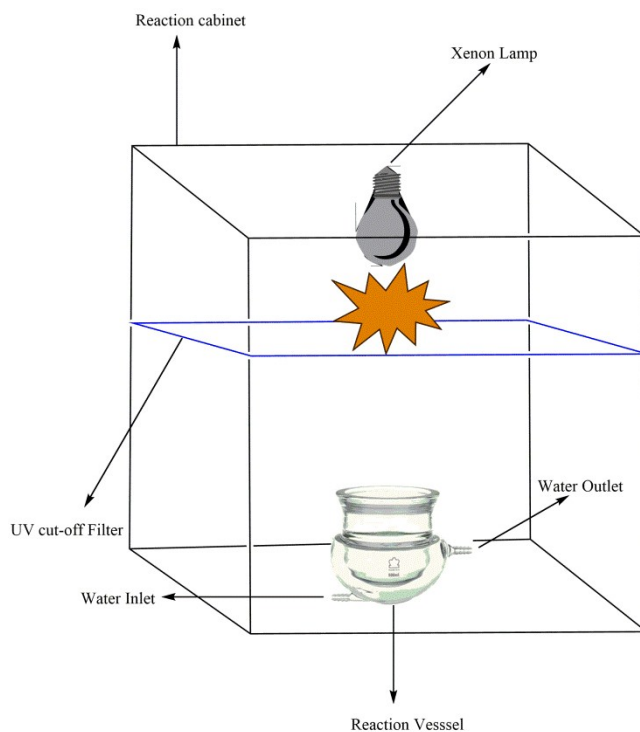
General Procedure for the Alcohol Oxidation

Method A: Alcohol (2 mmol) was taken in a 100 mL double-walled quartz beaker having water inlet and outlet to maintain the temperature of the reaction vessel in acetonitrile (5 mL). 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4,5-*s*-tetrazine (**pytz**, 23.6 mg, 5 mol%) is added to the reaction mixture and the beaker was exposed to visible light under stirring condition and was allowed to proceed for 10–12 h at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC or gas chromatography. When the reaction reached completion, or no further conversion was observed by gas chromatography, solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure and the product was dissolved in minimum volume of hexane. The reaction mixture was eluted through a plug of silica using hexane affording the corresponding product. Reported yields are the average of at least three runs.

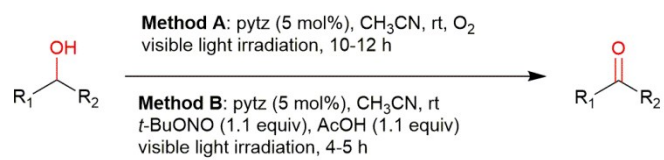
Method B: Alcohol (2 mmol), *tert*-butyl nitrite (2.2 mmol, 230 mg), acetic acid (2.2 mmol, 130 mg), and 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4,5-*s*-tetrazine (**pytz**, 23.6 mg, 5 mol%) were taken in a 100 mL double-walled quartz beaker having water inlet and outlet to maintain the temperature of the

reaction vessel in acetonitrile (5 mL). The reaction mixture was exposed to visible light under stirring condition and the reaction was allowed to proceed for 4–5 h at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC or gas chromatography. When the reaction reached completion, or no further conversion was observed by gas chromatography, solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure and the product was dissolved in minimum volume of hexane. The solution was washed with water (2×5 mL) and the hexane layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The reaction mixture was then eluted through a plug of silica using hexane affording the corresponding product. Reported yields are the average of at least three runs.

Gram-scale Oxidation of Alcohol: Benzyl alcohol (20 mmol, 2.16 g), *tert*-butyl nitrite (21 mmol, 2.17 g) and acetic acid (21 mmol, 1.26 g) were taken in a 100 mL double-walled quartz beaker having water inlet and outlet to maintain the temperature of the reaction vessel in acetonitrile (50 mL). 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4,5-*s*-tetrazine (pytz, 0.47 g, 5 mol%) is added to the reaction mixture and the beaker was exposed to visible light under stirring condition and was allowed to proceed for 7 h at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC or gas chromatography. When the reaction reached completion, or no further conversion was observed by gas chromatography, solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure and the product was dissolved in minimum volume of hexane. The reaction mixture was eluted through a plug of silica using hexane affording the benzaldehyde; yield: 2.06 g (97%).



Scheme S1 Schematic Diagram of Reaction Set-UP



Scheme S2 Oxidation of Alcohols to Carbonyls

3. Analytical Data for Aldehydes and Ketones

Benzaldehyde (Scheme 4, Entry 2a)²: colorless liquid (method A: 90 mg, 85%; method B: 97 mg, 92%). ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.987 (s, 1H), 8.109 (d, 1H, *J*=7.6 Hz), 7.858 (d, 1H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 7.588 (dd, 2H, *J*=7.2 & 8.4 Hz), 7.496-7.424 (m, 2H).

3-Nitrobenzaldehyde(Scheme 4, Entry 2b)³: off White solid (method A: 116 mg, 77% ; method B: 126 mg, 84%), mp 107 °C. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 10.157 (s, 1H), 8.724-8.272 (m, 2H), 7.725 (t, 1H, *J*=7.6, 8.0 Hz).

4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde(Scheme 4, Entry 2c)⁴: Off white solid (method A: 89 mg, 73% ; method B: 97 mg, 80%), mp 115 °C. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.837 (s, 1H), 7.827 (d, 3H, *J*=6.4 Hz), 7.015 (d, 2H, *J*=4.4 Hz).

4-(Dimethylamino)benzaldehyde(Scheme 4, Entry 2d)⁵: White solid (method A: 111 mg, 75% ; method B: 128 mg, 86%),mp 74 °C. ¹HNMR (400 MHz,CDCl₃) δ_H 9.715 (s, 1H), 7.712(s, 2H, *J*=8.4 Hz), 6.671 (d, 2H), 3.052 (s, 6H).

4-Bromobenzaldehyde (Scheme 4, Entry 2e)²: Off white solid (method A: 131 mg, 72% ; method B: 144 mg, 79%), mp55 °C. ¹HNMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.953 (s, 1H), 7.937-7.507 (m, 4H).

Anthracene-9-carbaldehyde (Scheme 4, Entry 2f)⁶: Off White solid (method A: 162 mg, 79% ; method B: 181 mg, 88%), mp 107 °C. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 11.411 (s, 1H), 8.9 (d, 2H, *J*=8.4 Hz), 8.528 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, 2H, *J*=8.4 Hz), 7.640-7.474 (m, 4H).

Nicotinaldehyde(Scheme 4, Entry 2g)⁷: color less liquid (method A: 72 mg, 68% ; method B: 81 mg, 76%). ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.882 (s, 1H), 8.829 (s, 1H), 8.583 (s, 1H), 7.931 (d, 1H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 7.265 (s, 1H).

Thiophene-2-carbaldehyde (Scheme 4, Entry 2h)⁸:colorless liquid (method A: 79 mg, 71% ; method B: 90 mg, 81%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.927 (s, 1H), 7.786 (dd, 2H, *J*=2.4, 7.6, 4.4 Hz), 7.185 (d, 1H, *J*=3.6 Hz).

(Z)-3,7-Dimethylocta-2,6-dienal(Scheme 4, Entry 2i)⁹: colorless liquid (method A: 98 mg, 65% ; method B: 109 mg, 72%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.934 (dd, 1H, *J*=7.6, 7.2

Hz), 5.874 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 5.087 (t, 1H, $J = 6.8, 5.2$ Hz), 2.594 (t, 1H, $J = 6.8, 7.2$ Hz), 2.227 (s, 2H), 2.175 (s, 2H), 1.986 (s, 2H), 1.677 (s, 3H), 1.600 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz).

4-Hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde (Scheme 4, Entry 2j)¹⁰: white solid (method A: 120 mg, 79% ; method B: 130 mg, 86%), ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 9.706 (s, 1H), 7.338-7.310 (m, 2H), 6.94 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.3, 1.8$ Hz).

Acetophenone (Scheme 5, Entry 4a)²: colorless oil (method A: 105 mg, 88%; method B: 108 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 7.932 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.547-7.408 (m, 3H), 2.563 (s, 3H).

1-(3-Bromophenyl)ethanone (Scheme 5, Entry 4b)¹¹: white solid (method A: 149 mg, 76% ; method B: 157 mg, 80%). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 8.033 (s, 1H), 7.840 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.638 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.316 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6, 8$ Hz), 2.569 (s, 3H).

1-p-Tolyloethanone (Scheme 5, Entry 4c)¹²: White solid (method A: 108 mg, 81% ; method B: 115 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 7.787 (s, 2H), 7.164 (s, 2H), 2.472 (s, 3H), 2.166 (s, 2H).

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)ethanone (Scheme 5, Entry 4d): Brown solid (method A: 132 mg, 80% ; method B: 143 mg, 87%), mp 77°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 8.718 (s, 1H), 8.382 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.265 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.675 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz).

Benzophenone (Scheme 5, Entry 4e)¹³: white solid (method A: 134 mg, 74% ; method B: 149 mg, 82%), mp 47-49 °C. ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 7.736 (d, 4H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.543-7.491 (m, 2H), 7.434-7.382 (m, 4H).

1-(Anthracen-9-yl)ethanone (Scheme 5, Entry 4f)¹⁴: Yellow solid (method A: 160 mg, 73% ; method B: 176 mg, 80%). mp 76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 8.427 (s, 1H), 7.981 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.823 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.504-7.432 (m, 4H), 2.785 (s, 3H).

10,10a-Dihydroanthracen-9(8aH)-one (Scheme 5, Entry 4g): Yellow solid (method A: 156 mg, 80% ; method B: 170 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 8.308 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.543 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6, 7.2$ Hz), 7.415 (t, 4H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 3.845 (s, 3H).

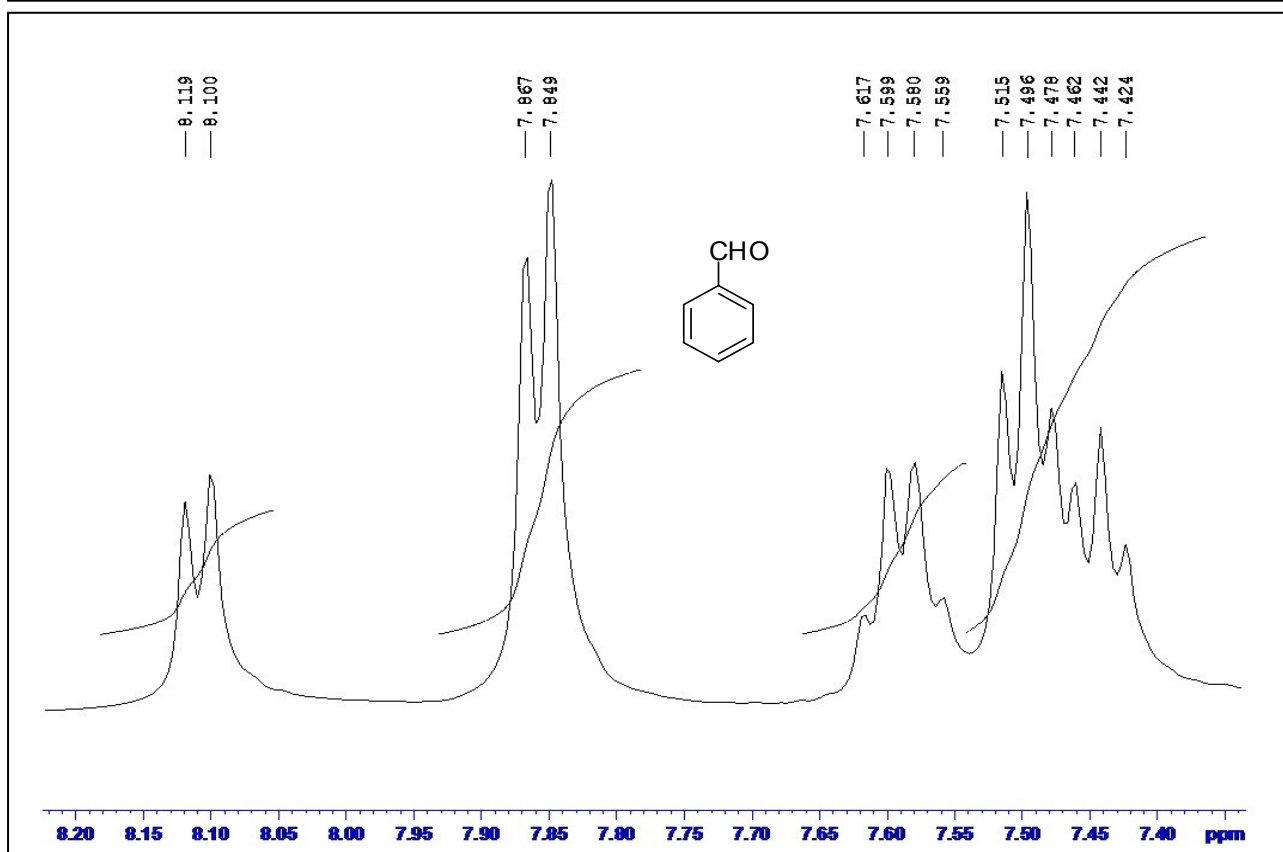
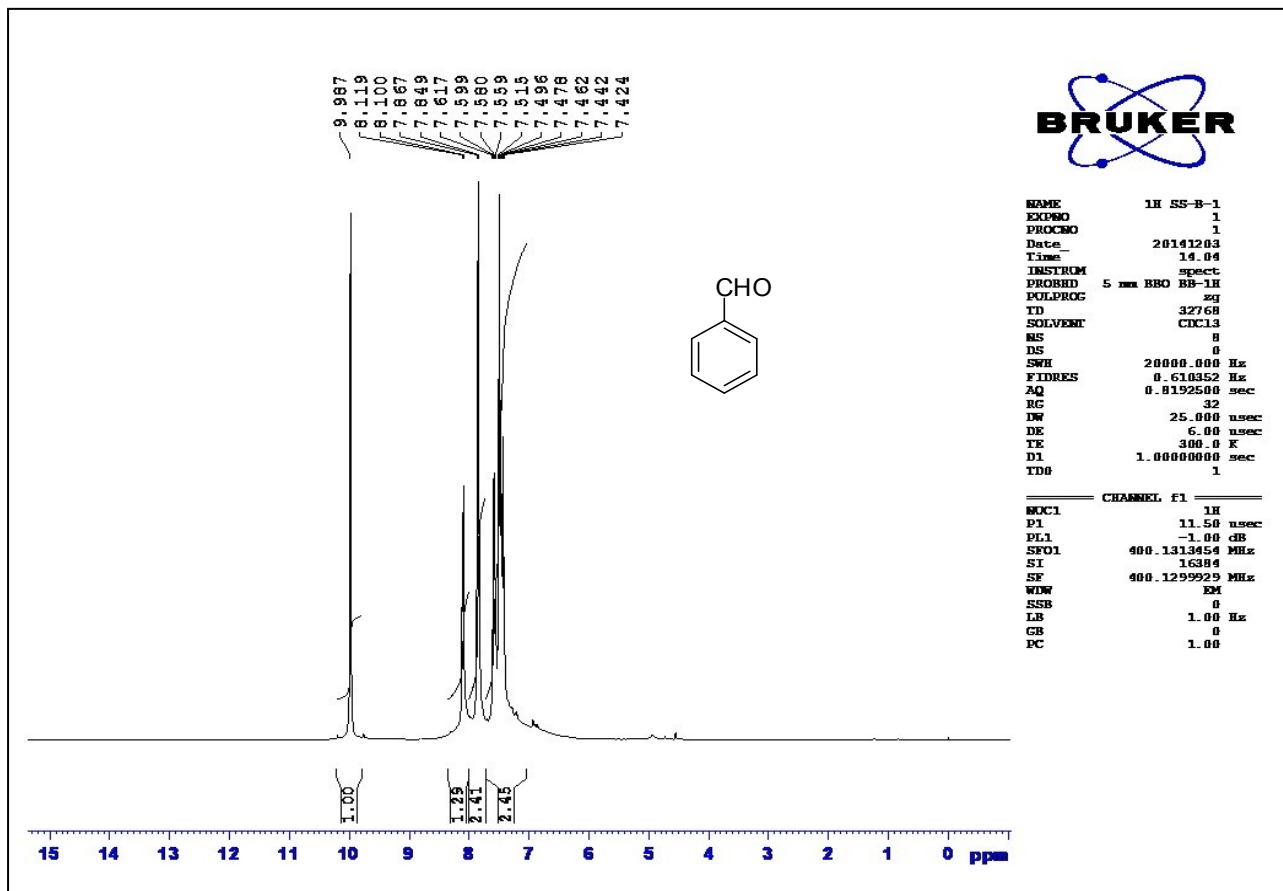
1-(Thiophen-3-yl)ethanone(Scheme 5, Entry 4h):colorless liquid (method A: 82 mg, 65% ; method B: 89 mg, 71%),mp58-62 °C.¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 8.043 (s, 1H), 7.526 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 7.302 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 2.8 Hz).

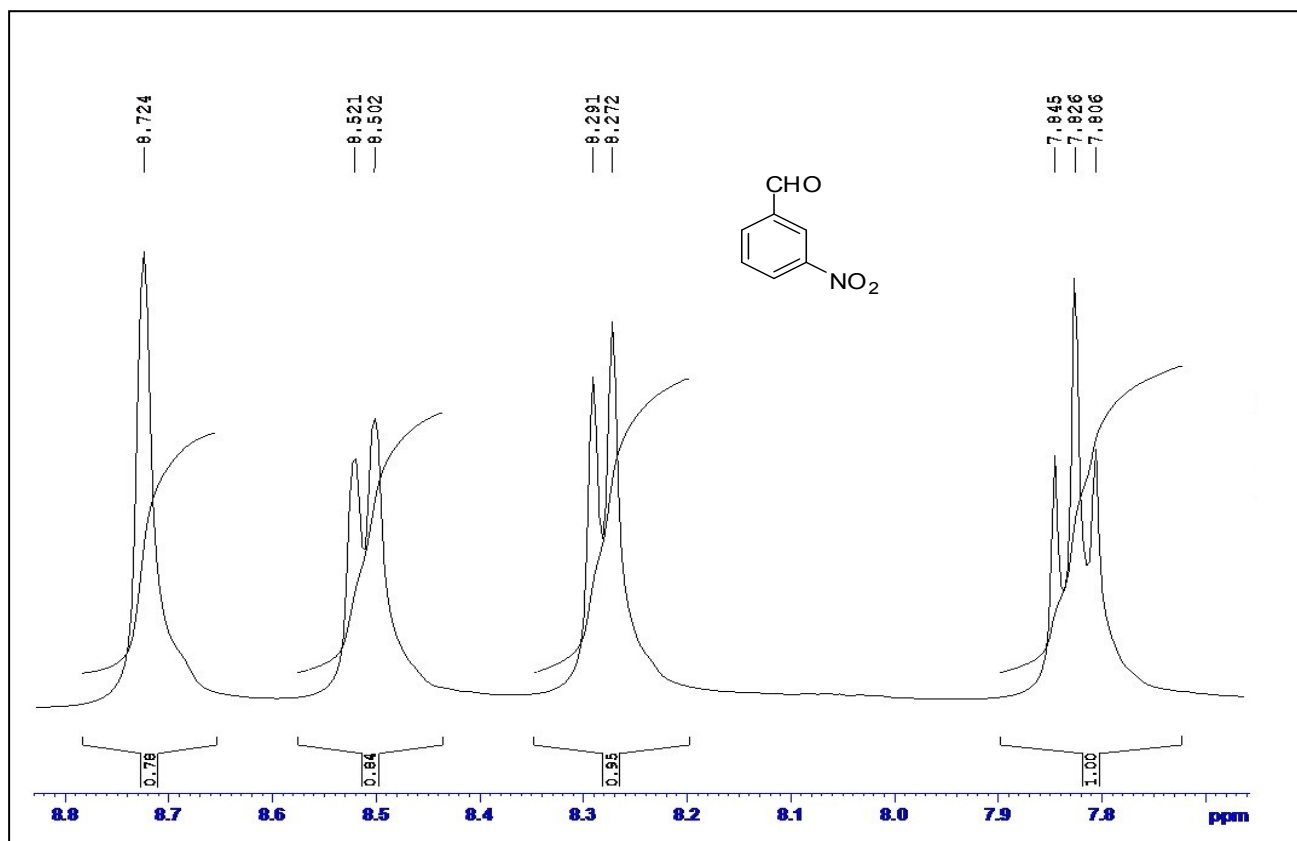
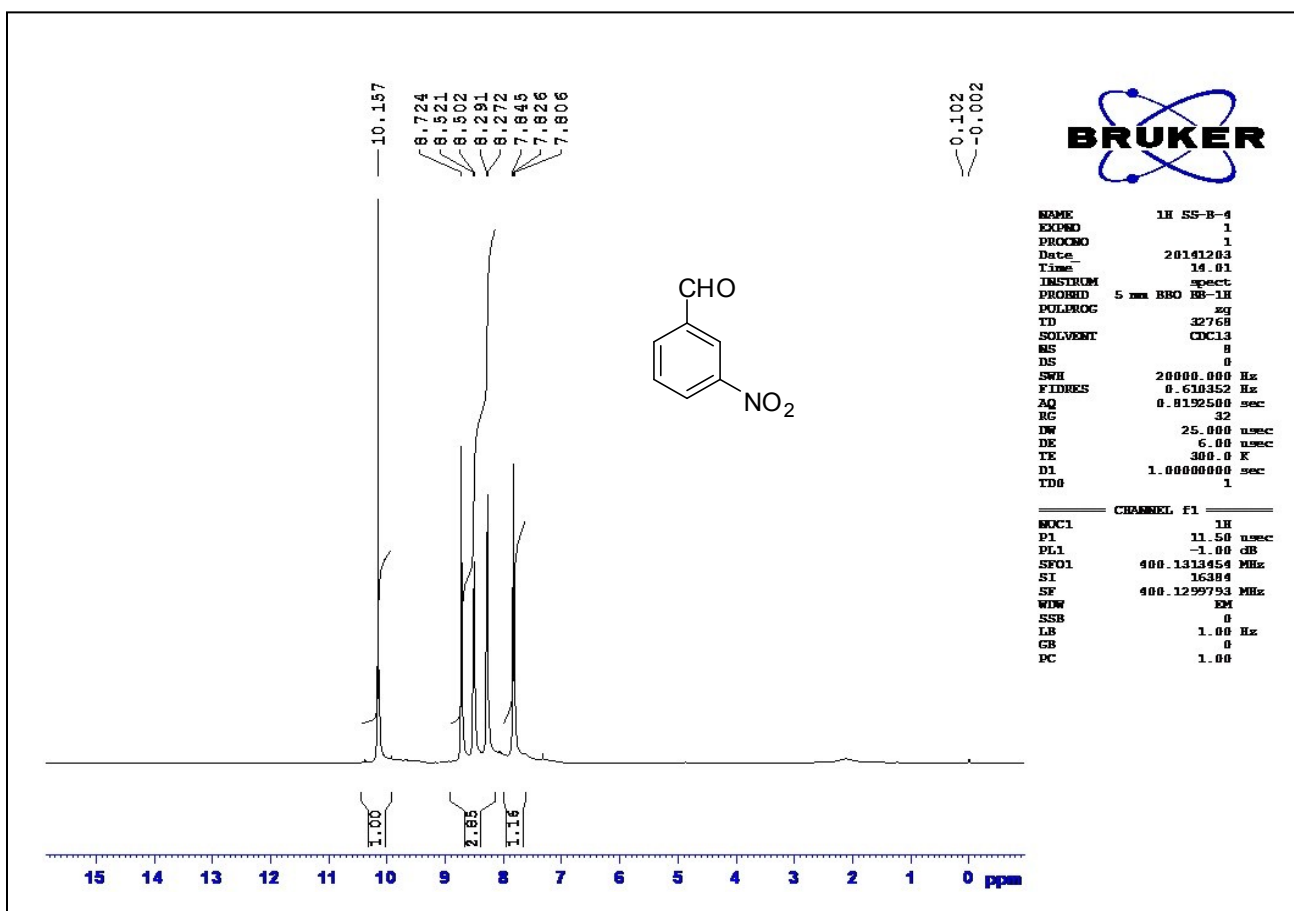
Cyclohexanone(Scheme 5, Entry 4i)¹³: Colorless liquid (method A: 70 mg, 72% ; method B: 77 mg, 79%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 2.337 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 1.868-1.282 (m, 7H).

4. Reference

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5.1H NMR Spectra







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