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Supporting Information

N-Heterocyclic Carbene-triggered Transition-metal-free Synthesis of

2,3-Disubstituted Benzofuran Derivatives⁺

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[†]Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra. CCDC 1444225. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format See DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x
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1. General methods	S2
2. General procedure for the preparation of compounds 3a-3s	S2
3. X-ray Structure of compound 3j	S3
4. NMR Spectra	S4

1. General methods

Common reagents and materials were purchased from commercial sources and purified by recrystallization or distillation. Melting points were determined in open capillaries and were uncorrected. IR spectra were taken on a FT-IR-Tensor 27 spectrometer in KBr pellets and reported in cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃ (100 MHz, ¹³C NMR) or DMSO- d_6 with chemical shift (δ) given in ppm relative to TMS as internal standard. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a micrOTOF-Q II HRMS/MS instrument (Bruker) with the technique of electrospray ionization.

2. General procedure for the preparation of compounds 3a-3s



An oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with thiazolium salt **4e** (16.6 mg, 0.04 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (32.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) and *o*-quinone methides **2** (0.2 mmol). This tube was closed with a septum, removed from the atmosphere and put under positive N₂ pressure. To this mixture was added freshly distilled 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) and aldehydes **1** (0.22 mmol) with a syringe. The mixture was stirred at room temperature until completion (monitored by TLC). Then the reaction mixture was opened to the atmosphere and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (76 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added in one portion. Once the intermediate ketone was consumed (monitored by TLC), removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (silicagel, mixtures of petroleum ether /ethyl acetate, 50:1, v/v).

3. X-ray Structure of compound 3j

The configuration of **3j** was determined by the X-ray analysis of its crystal (Figure 1). The crystal was prepared from the solution of **3j** in CHCl₃. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC 1444225.



Figure 1. X-ray crystal structure of 3j



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3a)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3b)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3c)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3d)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3e)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3f)







¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3h)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3i)









0.0-

¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3j)





¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3k)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3I)



90 80 f1 (ppm)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3m)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3n)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3o)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3p)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3q)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3r)





1

7.5

0.00

8.0

9.0

8.5

3.02 3.26 2.11 0.94

7.0

2.04

6.0

5.5

5.0

6.5



4.0 3.5 fl (ppm)

4.5

2.5

3.0

2.0

1.5

1.0

0.5

-0.5

-1.0

0.0

¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3s)



¹H NMR Spectrum of Compound (3t)



¹³C NMR Spectrum of Compound (3t)