## **Supporting Information**

# Oxidative Cross-Coupling Reaction by Scandium Catalysis for Synthesis of α-Alkyl α-Amino Acid Esters Derivatives

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### General

All reactions involving air- or moisture-sensitive reagents were carried out under an argon atmosphere. All solvents were distilled under Ar before use. All chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and J&K Chemical and used without further purification. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using 60 mesh silica gel plates

visualized with short-wavelength UV light (254 nm). Silica gel 60 (230 - 400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded using CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer at 298 K. The chemical shift is given indimensionless  $\delta$  values and is frequency referenced relative to TMS in <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

## **Experimental Section**

## 1. Synthesis of Ethyl N-Aryl Glycine Esters 1a<sup>1</sup>

To the solution of ethyl bromoacetate (20.0 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (3.0 mL) was added substituted benzenamine (20.0 mmol) and anhydrous NaOAc (20.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 6-10 h under N<sub>2</sub>. Then, the mixture was filtered, and the filtrate was cooled at ice bath to precipitate. The precipitation was recrystallized from ethanol-hexane, giving the desired ethyl N-aryl glycine ester **1a**.

## 2. Synthesis of 4a<sup>2</sup>

2-Bromoacetyl bromide (2.4 g, 1.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added dropwise to a mixture of MeNH<sub>2</sub> (1.0 g, 30 wt% in H<sub>2</sub>O, 1.0 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.66 g, 1.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL/10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was then allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for 6 h. Then, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3\*5 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and CH2Cl2 was removed in vacuo. Subsequently, EtOH (5 mL), p-anisidine (1.23 g, 1 mmol), and NaOAc (0.84 g, 1 mmol) were added to the residue. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 6 h and was filtered. The solvent of the filtrate was removed in vacuo. Recrystallization  $(CH_2Cl_2/hexanes)$ gave the pure product 2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-Nmethylacetamide.

SOCl<sub>2</sub> (3.6 g, 30 mmol) was added slowly to EtOH (30mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at this temperature for 10 min, glycine (0.75 g, 10 mmol) was added to the solution. Then, the reaction was stirred at 70 °C for 3 h. EtOH was removed in vacuo. The resulting solid was then mixed with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (30 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (2.2 g, 22 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C, and BrCH<sub>2</sub>COBr (2.0 g, 10 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution at this temperature. The solution was allowed to warm up to

<sup>1</sup> J. Xie and Z-Z. Huang, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2010, 49, 10181.

<sup>2</sup> L. Zhao, O. Baslé and C-J. Li, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2009, 106, 4107.

room temperature and the stirring was continued for 6 h. After that, the solution was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was removed in vacuo to afford BrCH<sub>2</sub>CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et (1.8 g, 81%). NaOAc (0.50 g, 6 mmol), *p*-anisole (0.74 g, 6 mmol), and BrCH<sub>2</sub>CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et (1.1 g, 5 mmol) were successively added to EtOH (4 mL). The reaction tube was heated at 80 °C for 6 h. EtOH was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was removed in vacuo. Flash column chromatography on silica gel by using ethyl acetate/hexanes (1:1) furnished the final product *N*-(*N*-*p*-methoxyphenylglycyl)-glycine ethyl ester.

## 3. General procedure for synthesis of 3a-3p, and 4aa



An oven-dried 10 mL screw-capped vial containing *N*-aryl  $\alpha$ -imino ester **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Sc(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (0.03 mmol, 0.1 equiv), PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.03 mmol, 0.1 equiv), benzylboronic acid pinacol ester **2a** (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and purged with Ar three times. Then, DCE (2.50 mL) was added *via* syringe, and heated to 80°C in an oil bath until the starting material has disappeared for 20 hours (monitored by TLC). And then the solvent was removed in vacuo and residue was purified on a silica gel column using EA/PE as eluent to afford the desired product **3aa**.

### 4. key intermediate was detected by GC-MS





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#### 5. Analytical Data of Products



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.34 – 4.16 (m, 2H), 4.16 – 4.03 (m, 2H), 3.19 – 2.98 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.67, 145.35, 136.01, 131.94, 129.19, 128.43, 126.97, 115.03, 109.89, 61.16, 57.54, 38.34, 14.05. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 348.2.



Methyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.31 – 4.25 (m, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.17 – 3.05 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.19, 145.28, 135.93, 132.02, 129.15, 128.55, 127.08, 115.04, 110.03, 57.52, 52.16, 38.34. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 333.9.



3c

*tert*-butyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.09 (s, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.86, 145.57, 136.29, 131.93, 129.42, 128.38, 126.92, 115.06, 109.74, 82.02, 57.93, 38.36, 27.90. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 376.0.



Ethyl 2-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.33 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.04 (m, 3H), 3.11 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.81, 144.94, 136.05, 129.24, 129.13, 128.50, 127.03, 122.88, 114.61, 61.22, 57.70, 38.42, 14.09. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 303.8.



Ethyl 2-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 (dt, J = 7.0, 5.1 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.61 – 6.52 (m, 2H), 4.29 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.15-3.13 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.13, 156.24 (d, J = 236.1 Hz), 142.73, 142.71, 136.24, 129.24, 128.49, 126.99, 115.74 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 114.62 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 61.13, 58.47, 38.68, 14.09. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 287.8.



Ethyl 2-((3-bromophenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.33 – 4.24 (m, 2H), 4.20 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.17 – 3.06 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.62, 147.62, 135.97, 130.56, 129.26, 128.52, 127.07, 123.24, 121.05, 116.05, 112.12, 61.30, 57.31, 38.40, 14.12. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 348.0.



Ethyl 3-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.26 – 3.95 (m, 3H), 3.16 – 3.08 (m, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.11, 146.32, 136.31, 129.30, 129.28, 128.45, 126.93, 118.31, 113.52, 61.09, 57.66, 38.59, 14.10. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 269.8.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.42, 152.77, 140.54, 136.54, 129.27, 128.43, 126.88, 115.25, 114.85, 77.32, 77.00, 76.68, 60.95, 59.01, 55.67, 38.90, 14.09. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 299.7.



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(o-tolyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 0H), 4.14 – 4.04 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.09 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 1H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.30, 145.63, 136.49, 134.62, 131.97, 130.52, 129.76, 127.14, 126.03, 115.11, 110.13, 61.21, 57.13, 36.48, 19.51, 14.01. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 361.9.



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.24 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.76 (s, 2H), 6.47 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (d, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.11 – 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.92, 145.51, 137.97, 135.82, 131.97, 128.68, 127.03, 115.14, 109.95, 61.16, 57.68, 38.35, 21.23, 14.12. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 376.0.



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Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 1H), 4.16 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.14 - 3.03 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 172.69, 159.61, 145.38, 137.55, 131.98, 129.48, 121.55, 115.09, 112.27, 109.95, 61.24, 57.50, 55.09, 38.36, 14.10. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 469.0.



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.05 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.46 – 6.34 (m, 2H), 4.42 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (s, 1H), 4.11 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.63-3.48 (m, 2H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.17, 145.50, 133.87, 132.40, 131.95, 128.96, 127.94, 127.58, 126.28, 125.73, 125.30, 123.26,



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.26 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.34 – 4.24 (m, 2H), 4.15 – 4.07 (m, 2H), 3.24 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.72, 145.35, 132.03, 131.57, 131.52, 128.94 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 124.11 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 123.35 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz), 115.35 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz), 115.07, 110.04, 61.35, 56.72, 32.30, 14.00. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.68, 161.22 (d, *J* = 245.2 Hz), 145.22, 131.93, 131.49 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 128.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 124.04 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 123.21 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz), 115.26 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz), 114.93, 109.88, 61.30, 56.51, 32.14, 13.95. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 366.1.



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(3-chlorophenyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.35 – 4.17 (m, 2H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.15 – 2.99 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.37, 145.12, 138.11, 134.21, 132.08, 129.70, 129.40, 127.46, 127.22, 115.13, 110.19, 61.43, 57.37, 37.94, 14.11. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 382.9.





MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.33 – 4.23 (m, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.21 – 3.10 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.40, 166.82, 145.17, 136.51, 133.87, 132.03, 130.36, 130.29, 128.51, 128.25, 115.14, 110.11, 61.40, 57.46, 52.12, 38.07, 14.07. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 406.2.



Ethyl 2-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-3-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93 – 6.80 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.11 (m, 3H), 3.87 (s, 1H), 3.10-2.99 (m, 2H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.49, 151.95 (d, J = 245.8 Hz), 146.53 (d, J = 10.6 Hz), 145.14, 132.01, 128.74 (d, J = 6.2 Hz), 124.98 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 116.87 (d, J = 18.2 Hz), 115.03, 113.07, 113.05, 110.00, 77.32, 77.00, 76.68, 61.37, 57.34, 56.10, 37.16, 14.15. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 396.2.



2-((3-bromophenyl)amino)-N-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 4.03 – 3.90 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.79 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 3H), 1.31 – 1.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.64, 147.79, 136.26, 130.65, 128.96, 128.94, 127.29, 123.22, 122.09, 116.69, 112.23, 59.71, 38.73, 26.09. MS (ESI): found [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 333.0.

### <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Products

































