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Selective Synthesis of α , β -alkynyl ketones via nickel catalysed carbonylative Sonogashira reaction using oxalic acid as a sustainable C1 source

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A. Optimization Studies

Table S1: Screening of reaction condition

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CO [from (COOH) ₂]							
1a 2a		Base, Solvent		4a	Ũ		
S.No	Catalyst (mol%)	Ligand (mol%)	Base (Equiv.)	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b		
1	NiCl _{2.} 6H ₂ O(15)	Dppb (15)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	50		
2	NiCl _{2.6} H ₂ O(10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	60		
3	NiCl ₂ (5)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	40		
4	NiBr ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	55		
5	Nil ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	63		
6	Ni(OTf) ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	55		
7	Ni(OAc) _{2.} 4H ₂ O (1	0) Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	nd		
8		Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	nr		
9	NiCl ₂ (10)		K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	25		
10	NiCl ₂ (10)	PPh ₃ (10)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	Traces		
11	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppp (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	Traces		
12	NiCl ₂ (10)	Xantphos (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	10		
13	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppf (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	nd		
14	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	70		
15	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	Na ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	63		
16	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	NaHCO ₃ (2)	DMF	60		
17	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (2)	DMF	45		
18	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	NEt ₃ (2)	DMF	20		
19	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (1)	DMF	45		
20	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	DMF	62		
21	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMA	55		
22	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	Toluene	Traces		
23	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2) PE0	G-Dioxane (1:1)Traces		
24 ^c	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb(5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	nr		
25 ^d	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	32		
26 ^e .	NiCl ₂ (10)	Dppb (5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	60		

[a] Reaction condition: lodobenzene (1 equiv.), Phenyl acetylene (2 equiv.), catalyst (0.10 equiv.) ligand (0.05 equiv.), base (2 equiv.), Oxalic acid (6 equiv.), DMF (0.5mL in outer vial, 2mL in inner vial), at 130 °C for 7h; dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphophino)ethane, dppp = 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane, dppb = 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane, dppf = 1,1'-bis(diphenylphophino)ferrocene, Xantphos= 4,5-bis(diphenylphosphino)-9,9 dimethylxant-hene; [b] Isolated yields; [c] at 100 °C [d] at 120 °C; [e] Reaction time = 12h.

We initiated optimization studies using iodobenzene **1a** and phenylacetylene **2a** employing oxalic acid as an *ex situ* CO source and K_2CO_3 as base in presence of NiCl₂.6H₂O along with dppb. To our delight, we got desired carbonylative product **4a**

in 50% (Table S1, entry 1). Furthermore, decreasing the ligand concentration to half (1/2) i.e., 5 mol % improved the yield of the reaction to 60% (Table S1, entry 2). We got 40% of carbonylative product 4a on decreasing the catalyst loading to 5 mol% (Table S1, entry 3). However, to enhance the yield of the product, we investigated amount of oxalic acid, different bases, suitable solvent, reaction time and temperature of given reaction. Intriguingly, different nickel catalysts such as NiBr₂, NiI₂ and Ni(OTf)₂ gave 4a in 55, 63 and 55% yields respectively and in case of Ni(OAc)₄.4H₂O the desired product was not detected (Table S1, entries 4-7). While, the reaction was not feasible in absence of catalyst (Table S1, entry 8). Also, to ascertain the role of ligand, we carried out the reaction in absence of ligand and carbonylated product 4a was formed in 25% along with 5a in 45% yield (Table S1, entry 9). It was found that 0.05 equiv. of ligand has contributed for formation of product in selective manner and increases the yield of the product. To evaluate the effect of ligand, we had investigated different ligands (Table S1, entries 10-14). Monodentate ligand i.e. triphenylphosphine (PPh₃) did not give appreciable amount of product whereas, bidentate ligand dppb was found to be most suitable for carbonylative Sonogashira coupling reaction. Different bases such as Na₂CO₃, NaHCO₃, K₂CO₃, NEt₃ and K₃PO₄ were also scrutinized and among them, K₂CO₃ was the most efficient base for the given reaction (Table S1, entries 15-18). We observed the profound effect of solvent as the reaction is favoured by polar solvents than that of non-polar solvents (Table S1, Entries 21-23). We also monitored the reaction at lower temperature i.e. 100 °C and 120 °C (Table S1, entries 24 and 25). We got 32% of desired product at 120 °C, while no product was detected at 100 °C as decomposition of oxalic acid is feasible at >120 °C (Table S1, entries 24 and 25). On increasing the reaction time from 7 to 12h, We observed the reduction of yield of 4a from 70 to 60% (Table S1, entry 26).

A. General method

High quality reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Tech Chem Solutions (TCI, India), Loba Chemie, alpha aesar and Sd Fine-chem Ltd. Thin layer chromatography was performed using pre-coated silica gel plates $60F_{254}$ (Merck) in UV light detector. ESI-MS spectra were determined using a Waters micro mass Q-TOF Ultima Spectrometer. Melting points were recorded using LAB INDIA MR-VIS⁺. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Avance 600 spectrometer operating at 600 MHz (¹H) and 150 MHz (¹³C) and Bruker Avance 300 spectrometer operating at 300 MHz (¹H) and 75 MHz (¹³C). Spectra were recorded at 25 °C in CDCl₃ [residual CHCl₃ (δ_H 7.26 ppm) or CDCl₃ (δ_C 77.00 ppm)]. Chemical shifts were recorded in δ (ppm) relative to the TMS and NMR solvent signal. Coupling constants (J) are given in Hz and multiplicities of signals are reported as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad singlet.

B. Experimental procedure for nickel catalyzed carbonylative Sonogashira coupling of aryl iodides using oxalic acid as an *ex situ* CO surrogates:

1, 3-Diphenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



In a 2 mL vial iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg), phenyl acetylene (0.98 mmol, 100 mg), K_2CO_3 (0.98 mmol), nickel chloride (0.049, 6.3 mg), dppb (0.024 mmol, 10.4 mg) and DMF (1.5 mL) was added and this reaction vial was placed in a 5 mL reaction vessel which contained oxalic acid (2.941 mmol, 264 mg), DMF (0.5 mL). The 5 mL reaction vessel tighten with the solid top cap sealed with Teflon tape and heated at 130 °C for required time. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC and after completion of the reaction, the inner vial was removed. Further, water was added in the reaction mixture contents of inner vial and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was further purified by silica gel

column chromatography using hexane as elutent, afforded **4a** as pale yellow oily liquid (70 mg, 70%).

¹H (300MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 7.40-7.54 (m, 5H), 7.61-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.38 Hz, 2H).
¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 86.90, 93.13, 120.15, 128.64, 128.70, 129.59, 130.81, 133.09, 134.14, 178.04.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{11}O^+$ is 207.0804 and observed 207.0821.

1-Phenyl-3-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 113 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3a** as yellow oil (70 mg, 65%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.55 (m, 3H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 21.73, 86.75, 93.80, 117.00, 128.56, 129.46, 129.52, 133.10, 133.98, 136.95, 141.54, 178.05.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}O^+$ is 221.0961 observed 221.0960.

1-Phenyl-3-(m-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) 1-ethynyl-3methylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 113 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3b** as yellow oil (59 mg, 55%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)** *δ (ppm)* 2.31 (s, 3H), 7.23-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.54 (m, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 21.19, 86.67, 93.52, 119.93, 128.61, 129.58, 130.25, 131.76, 133.57, 134.08, 138.54, 178.08.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}O^+$ is 221.0961 observed 221.0960.

1-Phenyl-3-(o-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-2-methylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 113 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3c** as yellow oil (61 mg, 57%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 2.64 (s, 3H), 7.28-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 20.8, 90.76, 92.19, 120.01, 125.95, 128.64, 129.55, 130.82, 133.09, 134.04, 137.05, 142.37, 178.07.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}O^+$ is 221.0961 observed 221.0965 [M-H+HCOOH]⁻=266.06455.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-4-methoxybenzene (0.98 mmol, 135 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3d** as yellow solid (69 mg, 60%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.65 (m, 3H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 55.44, 86.90, 94.30, 111.94, 114.45, 128.56, 133.88, 135.14, 137.10, 161.76, 178.03.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for is $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ 237.0910 observed is 237.0912.

3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-2-methoxybenzene (0.98 mmol, 129 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3e** as yellow oil (64 mg, 55%).

¹H (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 4.00 (s, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.33-8.35 (m, 2H).
¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 90.52, 91.25, 109.50, 110.87, 120.70, 128.50, 129.76, 132.59, 133.84, 135.00, 137.20, 161.89, 178.10.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for is $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ 237.0910 observed is 237.0904.

3-(4-Ethylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethyl-4ethynylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 127 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3f** as yellow solid (80 mg, 70%).

¹H (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ (*ppm*) 1.28 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 2.72 (q, J = 15.15 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 2H),
7.27 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 15.18, 29.05, 86.76, 93.88, 117.23, 128.32, 128.60, 129.56, 133.25, 134.01, 137.00, 144.78, 178.11.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{17}H_{15}O^+$ is 235.1117 observed 235.1129.

3-(4-(Tert-butyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-(tertbutyl)-4-ethynylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 154mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3g** as yellow oil (71 mg, 55%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)** *δ (ppm)* 1.36 (s, 9H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.67 (m, 3H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 31.06, 35.11, 86.75, 93.82, 117.05, 125.78, 128.60, 129.57, 133.00, 134.01, 137.03, 154.60, 178.11. ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₁₉O⁺ is 263.1430 observed 263.1418.

3-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-4-phenoxybenzene (0.98 mmol, 194 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3h** as yellow oil (60 mg, 45%).

¹**H** (600 MHz, CDCl₃), *δ* (*ppm*) 7.02-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.44 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.69 (m, 3H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H) ¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), *δ* (*ppm*) 86.96, 93.46, 114.03, 118.04, 120.10, 124.63, 128.63, 129.55, 130.10, 134.04, 135.16, 137.00, 155.51, 160.18, 178.02.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{21}H_{15}O_2^+$ is 299.1060 observed 299.1060

1-Phenyl-3-(2, 4, 5-trimethylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-2,4,5-trimethylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 141 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3i** as yellow solid (73 mg, 60%).

¹**H (300 MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.325 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H)

¹³C (75 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 19.02, 19.94, 20.25, 90.44, 93.22, 117.094, 128.57, 129.50, 131.30, 133.85, 134.33, 137.21, 139.68, 140.35, 178.11.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{18}H_{17}O^+$ is 249.1274 observed 249.1296

3-(2, 4-Dimethylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-2,4-dimethylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 127 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3j** as yellow solid (69 mg, 60%)

¹**H (300 MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 7.20 (s, 2H), 7.49-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.65 (m, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H)

¹³C (75 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 20.36, 20.68, 90.50, 92.58, 119.67, 128.61, 129.53, 129.78, 131.78, 131.96, 134.02, 135.54, 137.12, 139.15, 178.07.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{17}H_{15}O^+$ is 235.1117 and observed 235.1111.

3-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 1-ethynyl-4-methoxy-2-methylbenzene (0.98 mmol, 143 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3m** as yellow solid (76 mg, 62%).

¹H (300 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 2.60 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.785 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H) 8.245 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (75 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 21.18, 55.37, 90.17, 93.40, 111.86, 112.05, 115.53, 128.57, 129.44, 133.79, 135.70, 137.27, 144.59, 161.70, 178.06.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{17}H_{15}O_2^+$ is 251.1067 observed 251.1055.

3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one1



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 4-ethynyl-N,N-dimethylaniline (0.98 mmol, 142 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3l** as yellow solid (69 mg, 57%)

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃) δ (***ppm***)** 3.04 (s, 6H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.66 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 3H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 40.01, 87.90, 97.59, 105.69, 110.61, 111.60, 128.46, 129.39, 130.52, 133.50, 135.50, 151.80, 177.97.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{17}H_{16}NO^+$ is 250.1220 observed 250.1220.

3-(6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 2-ethynyl-6-methoxynaphthalene (0.98 mmol, 178 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3m** as yellow solid (100 mg, 75%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 3.97 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.22-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.78 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 55.44, 87.10, 94.41, 105.97, 114.78, 120.01, 127.28, 128.24, 128.62, 129.22, 129.84, 134.00, 134.26, 135.61, 137.10, 159.43, 178.02. ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{17}H_{15}O_2^+$ is 287.1067 observed 287.1052.

3-(3, 4-Difluorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 44-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 4-ethynyl-1,2-difluorobenzene (0.98 mmol, 105 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3n** as white solid (53 mg, 45%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.69 (m, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.26 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 86.92, 90.15, 116.94-117.02 (splitting occurred), 118.07-118.19 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 121.95-122.08 (d, J = 18.4 Hz), 128.74, 129.58, 130.08-130.14 (splitting occurred), 134.39, 136.62, 149.29-151.06 (q, J = 15.0 Hz, 251 Hz), 151.30-153.08 (q, J=14.8 Hz, 253 Hz), 177.64.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_9F_2O^+$ is 243.630 observed 243.0616.

3-(2-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 44-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 4-ethynyl-2-chlorobenzene (.98 mmol, 133 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3o** as yellow solid (82 mg, 70%)

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.32-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.64-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.74 (m, 1H), 8.31-8.33 (m, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 89.05, 91.05, 120.47, 126.88, 128.70, 129.69, 129.81, 131.82, 134.28, 135.09, 136.80, 137.53, 177.84.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{10}CIO^+$ is 241.0415 observed 241.0415.

17. 3-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 44-iodobenzene (0.49 mmol, 100 mg) and 4-ethynyl-4-bromobenzene (0.98 mmol, 175 mg), gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **3p** as yellow solid (42 mg, 30%)

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.54-7.61 (m, 6H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.31 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 87.69, 91.65, 119.07, 125.62, 128.69, 129.70, 132.13, 134.29, 134.35, 136.74, 177.84.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{10}BrO^+$ is 284.9910 observed 284.9910

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodoanisole (0.42 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.85 mmol, 87 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4b** as pale yellow solid (75 mg, 65%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 3.90 (s, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 3H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 55.59, 86.95, 92.29, 113.90, 120.41, 128.65, 130.38, 130.56, 131.98, 132.95, 164.51, 176.66.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ is 237.0910 and observed is 237.913.

1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 3-iodoanisole (0.427 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.85 mmol, 87 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4c** as yellow oil (66 mg, 57%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 3.96 (s, 3H), 7.00-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 2H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 55.90, 89.18, 91.54, 112.19, 120.29, 120.69, 126.76, 128.55, 130.39, 132.39, 132.58, 132.92, 134. 95, 159.80, 176.70.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ is 237.0910 and observed is 237.9130.

1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 2-iodoanisole (0.427 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.85 mmol, 87 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4d** as yellow oil (64 mg, 55%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 55.50, 87.01, 93.10, 112.85, 120.14, 121.08, 122.87, 129.65, 129.90, 130. 80, 133.08, 138.30, 159.84, 177.77.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ is 237.0910 and observed is 237.913.

3-Phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodotoluene (0.458 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.92 mmol, 93 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4e** as pale yellow solid (70 mg, 65%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 2.47 (s, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.83 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 6.91 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.01 Hz, 2H).

13C (75MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 21.86, 86.99, 92.61, 120.28, 128.67, 129.36, 129.72, 130.69, 133.69, 134.64, 145. 25, 177.73.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{13}O^+$ is 221.0961 observed 221.0966.

1-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 1-iodonapthalene (0.393 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.78 mmol, 80 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4f** as yellow oil (89 mg, 71%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.40-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.72 (m, 5H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8. 1Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 9.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ(*ppm*) 88.51, 91.72, 120.38, 124.49, 126.02, 126.79, 128.60, 128.68, 128.97, 130.62, 130.76, 132.97, 133.90, 134.52, 135.11, 179.74.
ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₁₃O⁺ is 257.0966 observed 257.0961.

1-(4-Aminophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4-iodoaniline (0.45 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.91 mmol, 93 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4g** as yellow solid (76 mg, 70%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 4.36 (s, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.58 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.62 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.61 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 87.15, 91.54, 113.73, 120.65, 127.82, 128.60, 130.34, 132.36, 132.85, 152.39, 176.29.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{12}NO^+$ is 207.0923, observed 222.0913.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 1-fluoro 4-iodobenzene (0.45 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.90 mmol, 92 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4h** as yellow solid (67 mg, 55%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.53 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 8.24-8.29 (m, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 86.60, 93.35, 115.72-116.013 (Splitting found d, J = 22 Hz), 119.00, 128.00, 130.89, 132.29, 133.05, 133.42, 164.77-168.168 (d, J = 254 Hz splitting found), 176.36.

ESI-MS(M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{10}FO^+$ is 225.0710 observed 225.0721.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one¹



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (0.42 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.85 mmol, 87 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4i** as yellow solid (67 mg, 57%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.43-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.62 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 86.58, 93.65, 119.89, 128.75, 129.02, 130.88, 130.99, 133.31, 140.73, 176.69.

ESI-MS $(M+H)^+$ calculated for $C_{15}H_{10}CIO^+$ is 207.0415 observed 241.0420.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene (0.35 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.71 mmol, 72 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4j** as yellow solid (57 mg, 41%).

¹**H (300MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.12 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.70 (m, 2H), 8.20-8.21 (m, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 87.69, 91.65, 119.07, 125.62, 128.69, 19.70, 132.13, 134.29, 134.35, 136.74, 177.94.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{15}H_{10}BrO^+$ is 284.9910 observed 284.9910.

3-Phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 2-iodothiophene (0.476 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.95 mmol, 97 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4k** as brown solid (46 mg, 42%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.18-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 8.00-8.01 (m, 1H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 86.50, 91.77, 119.96, 128.36, 128.71, 130.87, 133.06, 135.10, 135.27, 144.96, 168.82.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{13}H_9OS^+$ is 213.0369 observed 213.0372.

3-Phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one²



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 1-iodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (0.36 mmol, 100 mg) and phenyl acetylene (0.73 mmol, 75 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane **4l** as yellow solid (51 mg, 38%).

¹**H (600MHz, CDCl₃)**, *δ (ppm)* 7.43-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.69-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H).

¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 86.59, 94.50, 119.69, 122.65, 124.46, 125.69-125.77 (q, splitting occurred), 128.81, 129.82, 131.21, 133.21, 134.90-135.50 (q, splitting occurred), 139.40, 176.74.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{10}F_3O^+$ is 275.0687 observed 275.0678.

1-(9H-fluoren-2-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 2-iodo-*9H*-fluorene (0.34 mmol, 100 mg) and phenylacetylene (0.68 mmol, 69.8 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in elutent Hexane : Ethylacetate (95:5) **4m** as yellow solid (50 mg, 50%). **¹H (600MHz, CDCl₃), \delta (***ppm***) 4.00 (s, 2H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.26 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.89 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.29-8.30 (m, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H).** ¹³C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 36.90, 87.27, 92.73, 119.78, 120.37, 121.15, 125.34, 126.05, 127.18, 128.37, 128.70, 129.41, 130.69, 133.04, 135.59, 140.39, 143.36, 144.83, 147.64, 177.85.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺ calculated for $C_{16}H_{10}F_3O^+$ is 275.0687 observed 275.0678.

(Z)-3-hydroxy-1,3-diphenylprop-2-en-1-one³



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from Iodobenzene (0.34 mmol, 100 mg) and phenylacetylene (0.98 mmol, 100 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in hexane as elutent **5a** as colourless liquid (45 mg, 45%). The prepared compound **5a** was found to be exist as enol form of 1,3 diketones. (NMR matched with Ref. 3) **1H (600MHz, CDCl₃),** δ (*ppm*) 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.38 Hz, 4H).

13C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 93.17, 127.18, 128.70, 132.46, 135.58, 185.79. ESI-MS (M+H)⁺calculated for C₁₅H₁₃O₂⁺ is 225.0910 observed 225.0920.

(Z)-3-hydroxy-3-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4- Iodotoluene (0.34 mmol, 100 mg) and phenylacetylene (0.91 mmol, 93.57 mg) gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in elutent Hexane **5b** as yellow solid (55 mg, 55%). The prepared compound **5b** was found to be exist as enol form of 1,3 diketones.

1H (600MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 2.46 (s, 3H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.98 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.16 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 16.9 (s, 1H).
13C (150MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm*) 21.66, 92.85, 127.11, 127.26, 128.66, 129.42, 132.31, 132.88, 135.64, 143.29, 185.18, 186.08.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺calculated for $C_{16}H_{15}O_2^+$ is 239.1067 observed 239.1058 and (M+Na)⁺ 261.0785

(Z)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one



Prepared as described for **4a** starting from 4- fluoroiodobenzene (0.45 mmol, 100 mg) and phenylacetylene (0.90 mmol, 93 mg) in gave after purification with silica gel column chromatography in elutent Hexane **5c** as yellow solid (54 mg, 50%). The prepared compound **5c** was found to be exist as enol form of 1,3 diketones.

1H (600MHz, CDCl₃), δ (*ppm***)** 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.97-8.02 (m, 4H), 16.8 (s, 1H).

13C (**150MHz, CDCl₃**), *δ* (*ppm*) 92.85, 115.78-115.92 (d, *J* = 23.4 Hz), 127.14, 128.73, 129.66-129.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 131.92-132.94 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 132.53, 135.30, 162.28-164.59 (d, *J* = 253.81 Hz), 185.94.

ESI-MS (M+H)⁺calculated for $C_{16}H_{15}O_2^+$ is 243.0816 observed 239.0822 and (M+Na)⁺ 265.0412

A. ¹H and ¹³C spectra of alkynones

1-Phenyl-3-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one





1-Phenyl-3-(m-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one





1-Phenyl-3-(o-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one





3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one









3-(4-Ethylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one







3-(4-(Tert-butyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one



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3-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one









3-(2, 4-Dimethylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(4-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(3, 4-Difluorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(2-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1, 3-Diphenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one







1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one







3-Phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one





1-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one







1-(4-Aminophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





1-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one





3-Phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-yn-1-one





3-Phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one







1-(9H-fluoren-2-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one







(Z)-3-hydroxy-1,3-diphenylprop-2-en-1-one





(Z)-3-hydroxy-3-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one





(Z)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one





 $\# = Water in CDCl_3$

D. References

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