Supporting Information

Iodine/water-mediated deprotective oxidation of allylic ethers to access α,β -unsaturated ketones and aldehydes

Yuntian Xue,^a Yaolong Yan,^a Kezhi Jiang,^a Weifeng Chen*^a and Lei Yang*^{a,b}

^aKey Laboratory of Organosilicon Chemistry and Material Technology of Ministry of Education, Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou 311121, China

^bEngineering Research Center of High Performance Polymer and Molding Technology, Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, Qingdao 266042, China

Email: lyang@hznu.edu.cn; chenwf@hznu.edu.cn

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1. General information

Oxygen- and moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. Solvents were purified and dried by standard methods prior to use. All commercially available reagents were used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (200-300 mesh). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using pre-coated silica gel of 60 F254 (0.25 mm) plates and was visualized by UV (254 nm) and/or permanganate stain.

High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker microQTOF-QII. NMR spectra were recorded with TMS as an internal standard on a Bruker AV-400 MHZ instrument (400 MHz for ¹H NMR, 101 MHz for ¹³C NMR). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm on the δ scale relative to CDCl₃ (δ = 7.26 for ¹H NMR, δ = 77.2 for ¹³C NMR). Multiplicities are indicated as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), dd (doublet of doublet), or m (multiplet). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). GC-MS analyses were performed with Agilent 5977A/7890B GC-MS system. Most of allyl benzyl ethers^{1,2}, allyl silyl ethers³, allyl esters⁴ were known and prepared according to the previous reports.

2. Optimization studies

| | OBn | solvent, reflux | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | 1a | 2a | |
| Entry | Temperature (°C) | Solvent (ratio) | Yield $(\%)^b$ |
| 1 | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 78 |
| 2 | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane | 0 |
| 3 | 105 | H ₂ O | 35 |
| 4 | 90 | Toluene/H ₂ O (5:1) | 18 |
| 5 | 70 | THF/H ₂ O (5:1) | 40 |
| 6 | 82 | MeOH/H ₂ O (5:1) | 15 |
| 7 | 150 | DMF/H ₂ O (5:1) | 26 |
| 8 | 150 | DMSO/H ₂ O (5:1) | 51 |
| 9 | 60 | DCM/H ₂ O (5:1) | 12 |

Table S1 Screening of solvents^a

^{*a*} General conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), I₂ (0.16 mmol, 1.6 eq.), solvent (3.6 mL, solvent ratios are by volume), at refluxing temperature (60-150 °C), 2 h, under air. ^{*b*} Isolated yields.

| | | OBn | solvent, reflux | o N | |
|-------|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| | | 1a | 2a | | |
| Entry | I_2 | Temperature (°C) | Solvent (ratio) | Time (h) | Yield $(\%)^b$ |
| 1 | 1.6eq | 25 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 2 | 0 |
| 2^c | 1.6eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 2 | 63 |
| 3 | 1.6eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 24 | 91 |
| 4 | 0.5eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 24 | 72 |
| 5 | 2.0eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 24 | 79 |
| 6 | 0eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (5:1) | 24 | 0 |
| 7 | 1.6eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (1:1) | 24 | 63 |
| 8 | 1.6eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (2:1) | 24 | 72 |
| 9 | 1.6eq | 115 | 1,4-Dioxane/H ₂ O (10:1) | 24 | 90 |

^{*a*} General conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), I₂ (0-2.0 eq.), solvent (3.6 mL, solvent ratios are by volume), at 25 or 115°C, 2 or 24 h, under air. ^{*b*} Isolated yields. ^{*c*} Under Ar.

3. General procedure for the synthesis of new substrates 1



To a solution of the corresponding allyl alcohol (3.0 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) and DMF (10 mL) was added NaH (6.0 mmol, 2.0 eq.) and benzyl bromide (6.0 mmol, 2.0 eq.) at 0 °C under Ar. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 5 h and then quenched with H₂O (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (5 mL \times 3) and the organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and evaporated in vacuo. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/30) to afford 1 as colorless or yellow oil.

(E)-1-(3-(benzyloxy)but-1-en-1-yl)-2-methoxybenzene (1h)



Chemical Formula: C₁₈H₂₀O₂ Exact Mass: 268.1463 General procedure was followed on 534.7 mg (E)-4-(2-met hoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-ol to afford 732.0 mg colorless oil, yield 91%.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 - 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.20 - 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.87 - 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.79-7.78 (m, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 - 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.31 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.7, 138.9, 132.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 126.9, 126.4, 125.6, 120.7, 110.9, 76.5, 69.9, 55.5, 21.9.

HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀O₂Na [M+Na⁺]: 291.1356, found: 291.1369.

(E)-1-(3-(benzyloxy)but-1-en-1-yl)-3-methoxybenzene (1i)

General procedure was followed on 534.7 mg (*E*)-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-ol to afford 732.0 mg colorless oil, yield 91%.



Chemical Formula: C₁₈H₂₀O₂ Exact Mass: 268.1463

found: 291.1369.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.85 (m, 1H), 6.74 – 6.72 (m, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.04–4.00 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9, 138.8, 138.1, 132.0, 131.4, 129.6, 128.4, 127.7, 127.5, 119.2, 113.5, 111.7, 75.8, 70.1, 55.3, 21.8.

HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{18}H_{20}O_2Na$ [M+Na ⁺]: 291.1356,

(E)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)but-1-en-1-yl)thiophene (1k)



Chemical Formula: C₁₅H₁₆OS Exact Mass: 244.0922 *General procedure* was followed on 462.6 mg (*E*)-4-(thiophen-2-yl)but-3-en-2-ol to afford 527.2 mg colorless oil, yield 72%. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 – 4.04 (m, 1H), 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8, 138.7, 131.3, 128.4, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 125.8, 124.5, 124.4, 75.5, 70.1, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆OSNa [M+Na⁺]: 267.0814, found: 267.0806.

(((3-benzylidenepentane-2,4-diyl)bis(oxy))bis(methylene))dibenzene (11)



General procedure was followed on 576.7 mg 3benzylidenepentane-2,4-diol to afford 993.7 mg colorless oil, yield 89%.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.99 - 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.58 – 4.48 (m, 2H), 4.39 – 4.28 (m, 3H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (dd, *J* = 19.8, 6.7 Hz, 3H).

Chemical Formula: C₂₆H₂₈O₂ Exact Mass: 372.2089 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.6, 144.4, 139.0, 138.8, 138.5,

Exact Mass: 372.2089 138.4, 137.0, 136.9, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.4, 127.3, 126.8, 126.8, 73.3, 72.7, 71.6, 71.1, 70.4, 70.3, 70.2, 70.1, 24.4, 23.6, 20.6, 20.1.

HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₆H₂₈O₂Na [M+Na⁺]: 395.1982, found: 395.1995.

4. General procedure for the oxidation of 1



To a solution of **1** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in 1,4-dioxane (3.0 mL) and water (0.6 mL) was added I₂ (40.6 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.6 eq.). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h, then cooled to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with aq. Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted with EtOAc (5 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1:50 - 1:20) to afford **2**.

(E)-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-one (2a)

General procedures was followed on 1t (26.2 mg) to afford 2a as colorless oil (13.9 mg, yield 95%).



Chemical Formula: C₁₀H₁₀O Exact Mass: 146.0732

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H);
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.5, 143.5, 134.2, 130.5, 129.0, 128.2, 127.1, 27.5.

(*E*)-4-(p-tolyl)but-3-en-2-one (2f)

General procedures was followed on 1f (25.2 mg) to afford 2f as colorless oil (14.7 mg, yield 92%).





¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 6H);
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.6, 143.6, 141.0, 131.6, 129.7, 128.2, 126.2, 27.4, 21.5.

(E)-4-(4-bromophenyl)but-3-en-2-one (2g)

General procedures was followed on 1g (31.7 mg) to afford 2g as colorless oil (20.5 mg, yield 91%).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 6.62 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H);
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1, 141.9, 133.3, 132.2, 129.6, 127.5, 124.8, 27.7.

Chemical Formula: C₁₀H₉BrO 12 Exact Mass: 223.9837

(E)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (2h)

General procedures was followed on 1h (26.8 mg) to afford 2h as colorless oil (15.5 mg, yield 88%).



Chemical Formula: C₁₁H₁₂O₂ Exact Mass: 176.0837 ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.98 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.2, 158.3, 138.8, 131.

8, 128.3, 127.7, 123.3, 120.8, 111.2, 55.5, 27.2.

(E)-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (2i)

General procedures was followed on 1i (26.8 mg) to afford 2i as colorless oil (15.6 mg, yield 89%).



Chemical Formula: C₁₁H₁₂O₂ Exact Mass: 176.0837 ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, J = 14.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.96 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.5, 159.9, 143.4, 135.8, 130.0, 127.4, 121.0, 116.4, 113.0, 55.3, 27.5.

(E)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (2j)

General procedures was followed on 1j (26.8 mg) to afford 2j as colorless oil (15.8 mg, yield 90%).



Chemical Formula: C₁₁H₁₂O₂ Exact Mass: 176.0837

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.4, 198.3, 163.6, 161.6, 143.2, 129.9, 127.0, 125.0, 114.4, 55.3, 27.4.

(E)-4-(thiophen-2-yl)but-3-en-2-one (2k)

General procedures was followed on 1k (24.4 mg) to afford 2k as colorless oil (7.7 mg, yield 51%).



Chemical Formula: C₈H₈OS Exact Mass: 152.0296 1

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.8, 139.7, 135.8, 131.6, 128.9, 128.3, 125.8, 27.6.

3-benzylidenepentane-2,4-dione (2l)

General procedures was followed on 11 (37.2 mg) to afford 21 as colorless oil (16.7 mg,

yield 89%).

92%).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.42 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.6, 196.5, 142.8, 139.8,

Chemical Formula: C₁₂H₁₂O₂ Exact Mass: 188.0837

Cinnamaldehyde (2m)

General procedures was followed on 1m (22.4 mg) to afford 2m as colorless oil (12.1 mg, yield

132.9, 130.7, 129.7, 129.1, 31.7, 26.5.



Chemical Formula: C₉H₈O Exact Mass: 132.0575

(E)-chalcone (2p)

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.70 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.49 - 7.42 (m, 4H), 6.72 (dd, J = 15.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.7, 152.8, 134.0, 131.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5.

General procedures was followed on 1q (30.0 mg) to afford 2p as colorless oil (18.5 mg,

yield 89%).



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 - 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.53 - 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35 - 7.34 (m, 3H);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.6, 144.9, 138.3, 134.9, 132.8,

Chemical Formula: C₁₅H₁₂O Exact Mass: 208.0888

Methacrylaldehyde (2r)

General procedures was followed on 1r (16.2 mg) to afford 2r as yellow oil (6.37 mg, yield 91%).

130.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 122.1.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.56 (s, 1H), 6.31 – 6.30 (m, 1H),

Chemical Formula: C₄H₆O Exact Mass: 70.0419

6.00 (s, 1H), 1.85 – 1.84 (m, 3H);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 145.9, 134.5, 13.9.

(*E*)-4-(2,6,6-trimethylcyclohex-1-en-1-yl)but-3-en-2-one (2s)

General procedures was followed on 1s (28.4 mg) to afford 2s as colorless oil (16.7 mg, yield 87%).



Chemical Formula: C₁₃H₂₀O Exact Mass: 192.1514

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, J= 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 2.07 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.64 - 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.48 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 1.07 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 6H);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.7, 143.1, 136.0, 135.9, 131.6, 39.7, 34.0, 33.5, 28.8, 27.1, 21.7, 18.8.

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5. Preliminary mechanistic studies

¹⁸O-labeling experiment



To a reaction tube was added I₂ (51.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.6 eq.), **1a** (30.0 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1.0 eq.), 1,4-dioxane (3.0 mL) and H₂¹⁸O (0.6 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h, then cooled to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with aq. Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted with EtOAc (5 mL \times 3). The organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1:30) to afford **2a**-¹⁸O, which was determined by NMR and GC-MS, as a colorless oil (17.4 mg, 92% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).





GC-MS plot of 2a









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The oxidation of allylic alcohol 3



To a reaction tube was added I₂ (40.6 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.6 eq.), **3** (14.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) and H₂O (0.4 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h, then cooled to room teperature. The reaction was quenched with aq. Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted with EtOAc (5 mL × 3). The organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1:30) to afford **2a** (12.3 mg, 84% yield) as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).



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7. NMR spectra













7,7288 7,72893 7,7287 7,2673 7,7281 7,7281 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7284 7,7187 7,1187 7,1187 7,7284 7,7188 7,718 7,718 7,718 7,718 7,718 7,718 7,7188 7,718 7,

210 200 190 160 150 140 110 100 -10

