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Supporting Information

C-H Bond Cleavage-Enabled Aerobic Ring-Opening Reaction of in Situ Formed 2-Aminobenzofuran-3(2H)-ones

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1. Synthesis and characterization of substrates 1a-1g



The intermediates **SM-A** were synthesized according the published methods^[1] and this final material was used without further purification.

To a solution of **SM-A** in DMSO (1 M) was added H_2O (1 M) at room temperature. After stirring 6 hours at 80 °C, the reaction mixture was allowed to cooled to room temperature and subsequently diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The crude products were extracted with EtOAc and the organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford 1a~1g.

2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (1a) ^[2] $R_f: 0.27$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1) Light yellow solid. Yield: 72% (from 2'-hydroxyacetophenone) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64-7.67 (m,

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 2H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 4.03 (br, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.72, 171.35, 139.29, 125.04, 122.61, 119.11, 113.54, 96.73. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_8H_7O_3$ (M + H)⁺: 151.0390; found: 151.0314.

5-fluoro-2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (1b)^[2]

 $R_f: 0.29$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1)

Light white solid.

Yield: 75% (from 1-(5-fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 198.78 (d, J_{CF} = 2.8 Hz), 167.47, 157.45 (d, J_{CF} = 240.1 Hz), 126.91 (d, J_{CF} = 25.7 Hz), 120.30 (d, J_{CF} = 7.8 Hz), 115.36, 109.93 (d, J_{CF} = 23.7 Hz), 99.21.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -119.67.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_8H_6FO_3$ (M + H)⁺: 169.0230; found: 169.0291.



1-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (1c) m.p. 185 °C R_{f} : 0.32 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1) Light white solid.

Yield: 68% (from 1-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 197.97, 169.58, 138.99, 126.43, 123.91, 121.21, 115.76, 99.15. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_8H_6ClO_3$ (M + H)⁺: 185.0000; found: 184.9996.



5-bromo-2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (1d) ^[2]

 R_f : 0.33 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1)

White solid.

Yield: 57% (from 1-(5-bromo-2-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ8.18 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 197.29, 169.46, 141.19, 126.44, 121.33, 115.72, 113.42, 98.53. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₈H₄BrO₃ (M – H)⁻: 228.9323; found: 228.9353.



5,7-dibromo-2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (1e)

m.p. 174 °C

 $R_f: 0.44$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1)

Yellow solid.

Yield: 63%.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 196.64, 166.20, 142.29, 125.94, 122.47, 113.73, 107.11, 99.59. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_8H_3Br_2O_3$ (M – H)⁻: 306.8449; found: 306.8417.



2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (**1f**) ^[2] R_{f} : 0.21 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1) Yellow solid. Yield: 69%. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.99 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 198.65, 165.74, 154.38, 127.99, 119.26, 114.31, 104.91, 98.29, 55.84. UDMS (FSI) m/z exclude for C H O (M + H)[±], 181.0405; form d: 181.0401

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_9H_9O_4$ (M + H)⁺: 181.0495; found: 181.0491.

2-hydroxynaphtho[1,2-b]furan-3(2H)-one (**1g**) ^[2] *R_f*: 0.27 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1) Yellow solid. Yield: 42%. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 197.38, 171.06, 138.53, 131.15, 128.70, 127.23, 122.14, 121.96,

120.79, 118.67, 113.94, 99.43.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_9O_3$ (M + H)⁺: 201.0546; found: 201.0549.

2. Optimization studies for the reaction of 1 with arylamines

To smoothly promote conversion of **1** with arylamines into *o*-hydroxyaryl glyoxylamides, the step-wise screening of reaction conditions was operated. For condensation reaction to access *N*,*O*-acetals, reactions of **1a** with aniline **2r** were performed in the presence of a catalytic amount of a Lewis or Brønsted acid (10 mol%) at room temperature in 1,4-dioxane under open air (Table S1). Among a few acid catalysts tested (Table S1, Entries 2-5), DPP (diphenyl phosphate) was found to be the most effective (Table S1, Entry 4), and the *N*,*O*-acetal **3r** was obtained in 93% yield, but the ring-opening product **4r** did not be observed.

Table S1. Condition optimization for condensation reactions. [a]



2	TfOH	72	ND
3	TsOH.H ₂ O	87	ND
4	DPP ^[d]	93	ND
5	BF ₃ .Et ₂ O	85	ND

[a] Reaction conditions: 1a (30 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2r (19 mg, 0.2 mmol), catalyst (0.02 mmol), and 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) were stirred at room temperature (RT) for 10 h under open air. [b] Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture with dibromomethane as an internal standard. [c] Incomplete conversion was observed.
[d] DPP: Diphenyl phosphate. [e] Not detected.

With the optimized catalyst for condensation reactions at hand, various amines, including primary alkylamines, secondary alkylamines and arylamine, were allowed to direct the ring-opening reaction of *N*,*O*-acetal **3r**. As summarized in Table S2, alkylamines rather than arylamines facilitated the transformation, in which the desired product **4r** was obtained in the highest yield when diethylamine was used as the promoter (Table S2, Entry 2). Furthermore, the yield of **4r** decreased to 30% with the amount of diethylamine reduced to 0.5 equivalent (Table S2, Entry 6).

O O O H + C 1a 2r	1) 1,4-dioxane (0.2 M) DPP(10 mol%), RT, 1 2) amine Air, RT, 12 h	0 h	+ OH O 4r
Entry	Amines	Yield ^[b] of 3r	Yield ^[b] of 4r
1	PhNH ₂	37%	ND ^[c]
2	Diethylamine	ND	76 (73 ^[d])
3	Pyrrolidine	ND	60
4	tert-Butylamine	ND	73
5	Propylamine	ND	47
6 ^[e]	Diethylamine	ND	30

Table S2. Condition optimization for ring-opening reactions.^[a]

[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2r** (19mg, 0.2 mmol), DPP (5 mg, 0.02 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) at RT for 10 h followed by the addition of amine (0.2 mmol), stirring continued under open air at RT for 12 h. [b] Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture with dibromomethane as an internal standard. [c] Not detected. [d] Isolated yield. [e] 0.5 equivalents of diethylamine were used.

3. Mechanistic studies

The control experiment of semicyclic *N*, *O*-acetal **3u** Synthesis of **3u**:



A reaction tube was charged with the 2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one **1a** (75 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.), *p*-nitroaniline **2u** (69 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0eq) and PhMe (3 mL). The mixture was heated to 90 °C oil bath temperature for 24 hours while stirring under nitrogen atmosphere. After cooling the precipitate was filtered and rinsed with a minimum amount of cold PhMe. The yellow solid was dried under vacuum to afford semicyclic *N*,*O*-acetal **3u** (121 mg, 90%). m.p. 154 °C. *R_f*: 0.38 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4:1). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.38 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.79-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 196.05, 170.91, 152.02, 139.44, 139.10, 125.97, 124.33, 122.27, 119.76, 113.71, 113.16, 86.67. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₂O₄ (M + H)⁺: 271.0713; found: 271.0716. The control experiment of **3u**:



To a solution of 3u (54 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) was diethylamine (15 mg, 0.2 mmol) at RT, then the reaction mixture was stirred at RT under open air. After 12 hours, the mixture was diluted with HCl aqueous solution (0.2 N, 5 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2×5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 ml), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/EtOAc (4:1) as the eluent to give the desired product 4u in 57% yield.

2) Radical-trapping experiments



Reaction conditions: **1a** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (29 mg, 0.4 mmol), Radical inhibitor (0.4 mmol), in 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL), at RT, under open air, for 14 h. Isolated yields.

The reactions performed well in the TEMPO (2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy) or BHT (2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol) producing the desired product **4a** in 98% and 95% yields, respectively, which indicate that a radical process might not be involved in the present reaction

system. The superoxide radical anion scavenger TIRON (sodium 4,5-dihydroxybenzene-1,3-disulfonate)^[3] was added to the model reaction. However, the reaction did not be inhibited and 4a was obtained in 94% isolated yield, which may exclude reactive oxygen species in this transformation.

3) Control experiment of ¹⁸O-labeled water



Reaction conditions: **1a** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (29 mg, 0.4 mmol), H¹⁸O (20 mg, 1.0 mmol), in 1,4dioxane (1.0 mL), at RT, under open air, for 14 h. Isolated yield. The ¹⁸O in product **4a** was determined by HRMS and no ¹⁸O incorporation was observed.

4) The consumption of Et_2NH detected by ¹H NMR.

At the end of model reaction of **1a** with Et_2NH , the solvent was concentrated in vacuo under room temperature and appropriate amount of residue was dissolved CDCl₃ for ¹H NMR analysis, as shown in Figure S1a. By comparing the ¹H NMR spectra of the reaction mixture with that of **4a** (Figure S1b) and diethylamine (Figure S1c), we found excessive diethylamine was consumed completely.



Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectra of a) reaction mixture, b) 4a and c) 2a

4. References

- [1] D. S. Black, N. Kumar, D. B. McConnell, Tetrahedron 2001, 57, 2203.
- [2] F. F. Gao, W. J. Xue, J. G. Wang, A. X. Wu, Tetrahedron 2014, 70, 4331.
- [3] W. D. Castro-Godoy, L. C. Schmidt, J. E. Arguello, Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2019, 2019, 3035.







¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra for **1b**









¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 1d







 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 1f



 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 1g





¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4a



120 100 fl (ppm)







$^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4d



¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4e







$^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4g



$^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4h



120 100 fl (ppm)

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4i



¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4j



$^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4k



 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 41

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4m

120 100 fl (ppm)

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4n**

120 100 fl (ppm)

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 40

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4p**

$\begin{array}{c} 8.8\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 8.45\\ 9.00\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 6.09\\ 1.75\\ 1.81\\ 1.181\\ 1.182\\$

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4q

¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra for **4ab**

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4ac

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4ad

 $^{^1\}mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4af

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4r**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4t

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4u

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ and $^{19}\mathrm{F}$ NMR Spectra for 4v

200 180 160 140 120 100 80 60 40 20 0 fl (ppa)

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4w

 $^{^1\}mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4x

120 100 fl (ppm)

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4y

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4z

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4za

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 4zb

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for $\mathbf{5a}$

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for $\mathbf{5b}$

 $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra for 5c

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **3u**

