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Supporting Information

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

*Ying-wei Wang, Ming-rong Yang, Chic Hou Lao and Zhi-hong Jiang**

State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau, China

Corresponding Author *E-mail: zhjiang@must.edu.mo

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

The intermediates **SM-A** were synthesized according the published methods^{[[1](#page-8-0)]} and this final material was used without further purification.

To a solution of **SM-A** in DMSO (1 M) was added $H_2O(1 \text{ M})$ 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**.

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2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (**1a**) [\[2\]](#page-8-1) 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, 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.

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5-fluoro-2-hydroxybenzofuran-3(2H)-one (**1b**) [[2](#page-8-1)]

 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 $(d, J_{CF} = 25.7 \text{ Hz})$, 120.30 (d, $J_{CF} = 7.8 \text{ Hz}$), 115.36, 109.93 (d, $J_{CF} = 23.7 \text{ Hz}$), 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 ℃ 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](#page-8-1)]

 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 $C_8H_4BrO_3 (M - H)$: 228.9323; found: 228.9353.

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

m.p. 174 ℃

 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](#page-8-1)] 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. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_9H_9O_4 (M + H)^+$: 181.0495; found: 181.0491.

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2-hydroxynaphtho[1,2-b]furan-3(2H)-one (**1g**) [[2](#page-8-1)] 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 Brφnsted 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]

[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).

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

1) 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 ℃ 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 ℃. *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 $C_{14}H_{10}N_2O_4$ (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 1,4 dioxane (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 $Et₂NH$ detected by ¹H NMR.

At the end of model reaction of **1a** with Et₂NH, 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

 -119.67

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 1d

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 1e

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 1g

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4a

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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4d

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4e

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4g

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4h

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4i

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4**j**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4k

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 41

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4m

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4n**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **40**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4q

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

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4ac**

 -11.92

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4af**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for **4ag**

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4r

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4s

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4t

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4u

¹H¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra for 4v

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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4w

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4x

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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4y

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4za

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 4zb

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 5a

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 5b

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 5c

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for 3u

