Supporting Information

$B(C_6F_5)_3\mbox{-}Catalyzed$ Oxidation of $\alpha\mbox{-}Diazoesters$ with DMF and

Molecular Oxygen as Oxygen Sources

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Contents

1 General Information	2
2 Experimental sections	2
3 Data of products	3
4 References	8
5 ¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR spectra	9
6 HRMS of ¹⁸ O ₂ control experiment	36

1 General Information

All reagents and solvents were purchased from Adamas Reagent, Energy Chemical, Alfa Aesa Chemical Co., Aladdin Industrial Corp., Macklin Biochemical Co., Acors Organics, Bide Pharmatech Ltd., and so forth. All chemicals are without purification unless otherwise stated. All heating was done in an oil bath. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) for analysis was performed on Schleicher&Schuell F1400/LS 254 silica gel plates observed under UV light ($\lambda = 254$ nm). ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz or 400 MHz, and carbon NMR (¹³C {¹H}) were recorded at 101 MHz. CDCl₃ was used as a solvent as an internal standard (0.00 ppm) unless otherwise stated. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded using a Q-TOF time-of-flight mass spectrometer. Coupling constants (J) were reported in Hertz (Hz).

2 Experimental sections

2.1 The synthesis of α-Diazoesters.

(1) Substrates **1a-1r**, **1t** could be synthesized by the procedure: ethyl arylacetate (3 mmol), TsN₃ (1.5 eq), DBU (1.5 eq) in MeCN (0.2 M) under the Ar atmosphere at 0 °C stired overlight.^{1a} (2) Substrates **1s**, **1u-1x** could be synthesized by the procedure: Aryl iodide (1 mmol), ethyl 2-diazo-3-oxobutanoate (3 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (2.5 mol%), NaOH (3 eq) in EtOH (0.3 M) under the Ar atmosphere at room temperature for 6 -10 h.^{1b} (3) Substrates **1y** and **1z** could be synthesized by the Curtius or Bamford-Stevens reaction.^{1c,d}

2.2 General Process of the oxidative reaction of α-Diazoesters.

The catalyst $B(C_6F_5)_3$ (30 mg, 20 mol%) was put into a Schlenk tube equipped with a rubber balloon filled with pure O₂. The tube was evacuated and then backfilled with oxygen three times. Subsequently, α -Diazoesters 1 (0.3 mmol) in dry DMF (1 mL) was added to the tube. The reaction mixture was heated to 100 °C in an oil bath and stirred until completion, as indicated by TLC. After cooling to room temperature, ethyl acetate (5 mL) and water (5 mL) were added to the reaction mixture. The aqueous layer was extracted by ethyl acetate (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation and purified by silica gel column chromatography with petroether/ethyl acetate (50:1) as the eluent to give the desired products.

3 Data of products

Ethyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1a).^{2a}



Yield: 46 mg, 86% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.64-4.54 (m, 2H), 1.56 (td, J = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.4, 163.8, 134.9, 132.4, 130.1, 130.0, 128.9, 62.3, 14.1.

Methyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1b).^{2a}

Yield: 39 mg, 80% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.67 (ddq, *J* = 8.6, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.0, 164.0, 135.0, 132.4, 130.1, 128.9, 52.8, 52.8.

Isopropyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1c).^{2a}



Yield: 38 mg, 66% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.51 (t, J

= 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.33 (m, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 163.6, 134.8, 132.5, 130.0, 128.9, 70.7, 70.7, 21.7, 21.7.

Isobutyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (**2-1d**).^{2a} Vield: 44 mg, 72% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.46 (m, 2H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (dt, *J* = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.5, 164.1, 134.9, 132.5, 130.0, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 72.1, 27.7, 19.0.



Benzyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1e).^{2a}

Yield: 59 mg, 82% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 0H), 7.53-

7.41 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 1H), 5.42 (s, 2H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.1, 163.7, 135.0, 134.5, 132.4, 130.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 67.8.

Allyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1f).^{2a}

Yield: 47 mg, 83% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (ddt, J = 16.6, 10.4, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dq, J = 10.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (dt, J = 5.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.1, 163.4, 135.0, 132.4, 130.8, 130.1, 128.9, 120.1, 66.6.

Prop-2-yn-1-yl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1g).^{2a}

ĺ

Yield: 40 mg, 71% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR

 $(101 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \, \delta \, 185.2, \, 162.8, \, 135.2, \, 132.3, \, 130.1, \, 129.0, \, 76.3, \, 53.3.$

2-hydroxyethyl 2-oxo-2-phenylacetate (2-1h).^{2b}

Yield: 29 mg, 51% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc

$$=1/1$$
). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.60 (m,
1H), 7.56-7.46 (m, 2H), 4.54-4.47 (m, 2H), 3.99-3.92 (m, 2H), 2.58 (s, 1H). ¹³C

{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.1, 163.6, 135.1, 132.3, 130.2, 128.9, 67.4, 60.6.

Ethyl 2-(2-methyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1i).^{1c}

164.0, 146.2, 130.6, 130.1, 130.0, 129.6, 62.2, 21.9, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1j).^{2c}

Yield: 32 mg, 51% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)
$$\delta$$
 7.76 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101

 $MHz, CDCl_{3}) \ \delta \ 186.8, \ 163.3, \ 134.5, \ 134.1, \ 133.6, \ 131.8, \ 130.7, \ 127.4, \ 63.0, \ 14.1.$

Ethyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1k).^{2c}



7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.8, 163.0, 135.2, 134.8, 134.0, 130.2, 129.8, 128.2, 62.6, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-oxo-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetate (2-11).2c



Yield: 55 mg, 75% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.28-8.19 (d, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 184.6, 162.7, 133.2, 133.2, 133.2, 131.2, 131.1, 131.1, 131.1, 129.6, 126.9, 126.9, 126.9, 126.8, 122.0, 62.8, 14.0. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.0

Ethyl 2-(4-methyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1m).^{1c}

Vield: 35 mg, 62% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) § 184.9, 163.2, 141.6, 131.4, 130.9, 129.3, 62.5, 21.9, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-(4-methoxyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1n).^{2c}

 δ 184.9, 165.0, 164.1, 156.5, 143.4, 132.6, 125.5, 121.7, 114.6, 114.2, 63.6, 62.1, 55.6, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-10).^{2c}



Yield: 47 mg, 80% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.44 (m, 2H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.5, 168.1,

165.5, 163.4, 133.0, 132.9, 128.5, 116.3, 116.1, 62.5, 14.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -101.3.

Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1p).^{2c}



Yield: 49 mg, 77% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.44 (m, 2H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.9, 163.2,

141.6, 131.4, 130.9, 129.3, 62.5, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1q).^{2c}

 $\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} & \text{O}\\ & \text{OEt}\\ & \text{O}\\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{OEt}\\ & \text{O}\\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{OEt}\\ & \text{I}\\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{NMR} (300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \ \delta \ 7.90 \ (\text{d}, J = 8.5 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), \ 7.66 \ (\text{d}, J = 8.5 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), \ 4.44 \\ & (\text{q}, J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), \ 1.47\text{-}1.37 \ (\text{t}, 3\text{H}). \ ^{13}\text{C} \ \{^{1}\text{H}\} \ \text{NMR} \ (101 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \ \delta \ 185.1, \end{array}$

163.1, 132.3, 131.4, 131.3, 130.5, 62.6, 14.1.

Ethyl 2-(2, 3-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1r).^{2c}

CDCl₃) δ 185.9, 162.3, 135.9, 134.6, 134.2, 131.7, 129.4, 127.9, 63.1, 13.9.

Ethyl 2-oxo-2-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetate (2-1s).

O O O D O Et Yield: 54 mg, 65% yield; white solid; m.p.112.1-113.0 °C; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 7/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.33 (m, 3H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,

J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.4, 163.5, 131.9, 131.8, 131.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.1, 128.5, 122.4, 94.1, 88.4, 62.5, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₄O₃Na⁺: 301.0841; Found: 301.0839.

Ethyl 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1t).^{2c}

Yield: 53 mg, 77% yield; white solid; m.p.112.1-113.0 °C; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 7/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.05 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.5

Hz, 1H), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 186.3, 163.9, 136.4, 133.5, 132.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 128.9, 127.9, 127.2, 124.0, 62.4, 14.2.

Ethyl 2-(9,10-dioxo-8a,9,10,10a-tetrahydroanthracen-2-yl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1u).



(t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 184.7, 182.3, 181.9, 162.5, 136.9, 136.7, 134.7, 134.6, 134.3, 133.7, 133.3, 133.3, 129.4, 127.9, 127.5, 127.5, 63.0, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃O₅⁺: 309.0763; Found: 309.0760.

Ethyl 2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-oxoacetate (2-1v).^{2d}



Yield: 27 mg, 40% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 7/1).
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H),
6.88 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 2H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz,

3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) & 184.6, 164.0, 153.5, 148.5, 127.8, 127.2, 108.7, 108.3, 103.0, 102.2, 62.3, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀O₅Na⁺: 245.0426; Found: 205.0426.

Ethyl 2-oxo-2-(quinolin-3-yl)acetate (2-1w).^{2e}



J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 184.4, 162.5, 150.3, 149.5, 140.4, 133.1, 129.8, 129.6, 127.9, 126.5, 125.3, 77.3, 77.0, 76.7, 62.8, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₂NO₃⁺: 230.0817; Found: 230.0819.

Ethyl 2-oxo-2-(4-(((2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl)oxy)methyl)phenyl) acetate (2-1x).²ⁱ



Yield: 80 mg, 43% yield; as a colorless liquid; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 7/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J =

8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 4.47 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.22-2.08 (m, 9H), 1.80 (h, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 8H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 10H), 1.13 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 9.5 Hz, 6H), 0.86 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.0, 163.8, 148.1, 147.8, 145.7, 131.7, 130.3, 127.7, 127.3, 125.8, 123.1, 117.7, 74.9, 73.6, 62.3, 40.0, 40.0, 39.4, 37.6, 37.5, 37.5, 37.4, 37.4, 37.3, 32.8, 32.8, 32.7, 32.7, 31.3, 31.2, 28.0, 24.8, 24.8, 24.4, 23.9, 22.7, 22.6, 21.0, 20.7, 19.7, 19.7, 19.7, 19.6, 14.1, 12.8, 11.9, 11.8.

Benzophenone (2-1y).^{2f}

Yield: 36 mg, 66% yield; white solid; m.p.47-49 °C; Rf: 0.5 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15/1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7, 137.6, 132.4, 130.1, 128.3.

Indoline-2,3-dione (2-1z).^{2g}

Yield: 21 mg, 48% yield; red solid; m.p.203.1-204.2 °C; Rf: 0.4 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 7/1). ¹H NMR (400

MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.01 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H)

Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 184.8, 159.8, 151.2, 138.8, 125.1, 123.2, 118.3, 112.6.

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5¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

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f1 (ppm)



6 HRMS of ¹⁸O₂ control experiment

