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## **Supporting Information**

# Diethylzinc-Promoted Carboxylation of Aryl/Alkenyl Boronic Acids with CO<sub>2</sub>

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### **1. Optimization Studies**

General procedure: An oven-dried 50 mL schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was charged with 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (60.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The schlenk tube was evacuated and back-filled under CO<sub>2</sub> flow for three times. Then, anhydrous solvent (2.0 mL) and ZnEt<sub>2</sub> solution (2 M in toluene) was added under CO<sub>2</sub> flow, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. The mixture was then allowed to cool to room temperature, carefully quenched with 1 M HCl and stirred for 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was extracted five times with EtOAc and the combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The crude products were purified by flash chromatography (AcOH/EA/PE = 0/1/10 to 0.01/1/1).

B(OH	) <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> - (1 atm)	Additive DMF, 1	e (3.0 equiv.) ► 100 °C, 16 h	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	
Entry	Additi	ve	Solvent	T [°C]	Yield [%]
1	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.	0 eq.)	DMF	100	94
2	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (0.0	) eq.)	DMF	100	0
3	$ZnMe_2(3.$	0 eq.)	DMF	100	72
4	KHMI	DS	DMF	100	0
5	KO <sup>t</sup> B	u	DMF	100	0
6	Cs <sub>2</sub> CC	<b>D</b> <sub>3</sub>	DMF	100	0
7	CsF		DMF	100	0

 Table S1 Optimization of additive<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction performed on 0.40 mmol scale. Isolated yields are given.

### Table S2 Optimization of solvent <sup>a</sup>

B(OH) <sub>2</sub> +	CO <sub>2</sub> ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1 atm) solvent	. (3.0 equiv.) ► , 100 <sup>o</sup> C, 16 h	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	► COOH
Entry	Additive	Solvent	T [°C]	Yield [%]
1	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	100	94
2	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	THF	100	46
3	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	1,4-dioxane	100	66
4	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMA	100	77
5	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMSO	100	94

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction performed on 0.40 mmol scale. Isolated yields are given.

### Table S3 Optimization of temperature<sup>a</sup>

B(OH) <sub>2</sub>	ZnEt <sub>2</sub>	(3.0 equiv.)	H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	СООН
OMe +	(1 atm) DMF/DM	DMF/DMSO, T, 16 h		OMe
Entry	Additive	Solvent	T [°C]	Yield [%]
1	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	100	94
2	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	70	84
3	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	50	60
4	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	25	16
5	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMSO	100	94
6	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMSO	70	76

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction performed on 0.40 mmol scale. Isolated yields are given.

B(OH) <sub>2</sub> +	ZnEt CO <sub>2</sub> (1 atm)DMF/DMS	H <sub>3</sub> O⁺	► COOH	
Entry	Additive	Solvent	T [°C]	Yield [%]
1	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMF	100	94
2	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (2.0 eq.)	DMF	100	84
3	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1.5 eq.)	DMF	100	80
4	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1.0 eq.)	DMF	100	73
5	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (3.0 eq.)	DMSO	100	94
6	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (2.0 eq.)	DMSO	100	94
7	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1.5 eq.)	DMSO	100	94
8	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1.2 eq.)	DMSO	100	74
9	ZnEt <sub>2</sub> (1.0 eq.)	DMSO	100	62

Table S4 Optimization of the amount of diethylzinc<sup>*a*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction performed on 0.40 mmol scale. Isolated yields are given.

#### 2. Mechanism Research

#### Quenching experiment in the absence of CO<sub>2</sub>



A 50 mL Schlenk tube was charged with (4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)boronic acid (1e, 103.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), and the tube was evacuated and refilled with Ar (3 times). DMSO (2.0 mL) and ZnEt<sub>2</sub> (2 M in toluene, 0.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) were then added, and the resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 16 h at 100 °C. The reaction was quenched with D<sub>2</sub>O (4.0 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. The organic layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layer was passed through a pad of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then all volatiles

were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford 1-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)benzene-4-d (5) as a white solid (54.2 mg, 63%).



A 50 mL Schlenk tube was charged with phenethylboronic acid (60.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), and evacuated and refilled with Ar (3 times). DMSO (2.0 mL) and ZnEt<sub>2</sub> (2 M in toluene, 0.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) were then added, and the resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 16 h at 100 °C. The reaction was quenched with D<sub>2</sub>O (4.0 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. The organic layer was extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 10$  mL) and the combined organic layer was passed through a pad of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then, organic layer was detected by GC-MS.



A 50 mL Schlenk tube was charged with phenethylboronic acid (60.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), and evacuated and refilled with Ar (3 times). DMSO (2.0 mL) and ZnEt<sub>2</sub> (2 M in toluene, 0.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) were then added, and the resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 16 h at 100 °C. The reaction was quenched with I<sub>2</sub> (1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv. in DMSO), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. Then, 30 mL saturated NaS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution was added and stirred for 30 min. The organic layer was extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 10$  mL) and the combined organic layer was passed through a pad of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then, organic layer was detected by GC-MS.

#### **Preparation of PhZnEt solution**<sup>1</sup>

A dry and nitrogen flushed 100 mL three-necked flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermometer, a nitrogen inlet, and a septum, was charged with zinc chloride (817.8 mg, 6 mmol, 1 equiv.) and THF (6 mL). After exothermic dissolution of zinc chloride in THF, phenylmagnesium bromide (6.3 mL, 1 M, 6.3 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) was added dropwise at room temperature. Stirring was continued for 15 min, then, ethylmagnesium chloride (3.1 mL, 2 M, 6.3 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) was added dropwise at room temperature. After completion of the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min.



An oven-dried 50 mL Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was evacuated and back-filled under CO<sub>2</sub> flow (this procedure was repeated three times). Then, anhydrous DMSO (1.0 mL) and PhZnEt (0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv, 0.4 M in THF) was added under CO<sub>2</sub> flow, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Then, the mixture was carefully quenched with 1 M HCl and stirred for 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was extracted five times with EtOAc and the combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The crude products were purified by flash chromatography affording benzoic acid (**2a**) in 43% yield.

#### References

(1) Cahiez, G.; Foulgoc, L.; Moyeux, A. Iron-Catalyzed Oxidative Heterocoupling between Aliphatic and Aromatic Organozinc Reagents: A Novel Pathway for Functionalized Aryl-Alkyl Cross-Coupling Reactions. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 2969-2972.

# Copies of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR Spectra for Compounds

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2a** 





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2b** 













<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2d** 







<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2e** 



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2f** 











СООН

HO



 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of 2g

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2h** 







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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2m** 





<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2m** 



![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2n** 

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **20** 

















<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2r** 





 $^{13}$ C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2r** 



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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2s** 





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2u** 







<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of 2v























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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2ac** 
















<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2ag** 





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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **2ah** 











<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of **2aj** 



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of **3** 

















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