

Supporting Information for

One-Pot Synthesis of Carbazoles from Cyclohexanones and Aryl hydrazine Chlorides under Metal-Free Conditions

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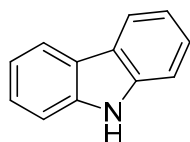
General information:

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of oxygen. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel 48-75 μm . ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to SiMe_4 or chloroform signals. MS analyses were performed on an Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). High-resolution mass spectra were recorded at the Center for Mass Spectrometry, Peking University. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their ^1H NMR data and MS data with those of literature. All reagents were used as received from commercial sources without further purification.

General procedure: (3a):

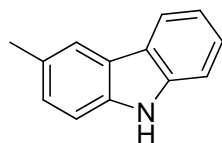
A 25 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol) and refluxed with oxygen (1 atm). *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (0.4 mL) was added to the sealed reaction vessel by syringe. The resulting solution was stirred at 140 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3a** as pale yellow solid; yield: 24.4 mg (73%).

Carbazole (**3a**, CAS: 86-74-8) ^[1]



^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.09-8.06 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.6, 125.8, 123.4, 120.3, 119.5, 110.6; MS (EI) m/z (%): 167 (100), 139, 113, 83, 75.

3-Methyl-carbazole (**3b**, CAS: 4630-20-0) ^[1]

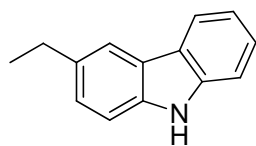


The reaction was conducted with 4-methylcyclohexanone (**1b**, 24.4 μL , 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column

chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3b** as pale yellow solid; yield: 27.2 mg (75%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.20 (m, 5H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.9, 137.8, 128.8, 127.2, 125.7, 123.6, 123.3, 120.3, 120.2, 119.3, 110.6, 110.3, 21.4; MS (EI) m/z (%): 181 (100), 152, 127, 90, 77.

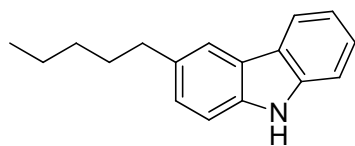
3-Ethyl-carbazole (**3c**, CAS: 5599-49-5) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with 4-ethylcyclohexanone (**1c**, 28.2 μL , 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3c** as pale yellow solid; yield: 28.5 mg (73%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.06 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 2H), 2.83 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.6, 138.0, 135.6, 126.2, 125.6, 123.6, 123.4, 120.2, 119.3, 119.0, 110.6, 110.4, 29.0, 16.4; MS (EI) m/z (%): 195, 180 (100), 167, 152, 139, 90.

3-Pentyl-carbazole (**3d**)

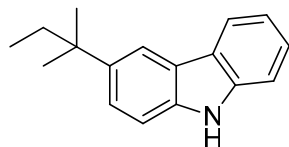


The reaction was conducted with 4-pentylcyclohexanone (**1d**, 37.8 μL , 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3d** as pale yellow solid; yield: 35.1 mg (74%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.05 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2H), 2.78 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.37 (m, 4H), 0.91 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.9, 138.0, 134.2, 126.6, 125.6, 123.6, 123.4, 120.2,

119.6, 119.2, 110.5, 110.2, 36.0, 32.0, 31.6, 22.6, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z (%): 237, 217, 204, 191, 180 (100), 152; HRMS calcd. for : $C_{17}H_{19}N$ $[M]^+$ 237.1512, found 237.1511.

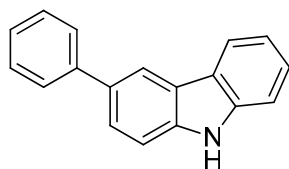
3-(*tert*-Pentyl)- carbazole (3e)



The reaction was conducted with 4-(*tert*-pentyl)cyclohexanone (**1e**, 36.6 μ L, 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3e** as pale yellow solid; yield: 36.5 mg (74%).

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 1H), 1.76 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 6H), 0.72 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 140.8, 140.0, 137.7, 125.5, 124.4, 123.7, 123.2, 120.1, 119.2, 117.3, 110.6, 110.0, 37.9, 37.4, 29.1, 9.3; MS (EI) m/z (%): 237, 222, 208 (100), 191, 180, 167; HRMS calcd. for : $C_{17}H_{20}N$ $[M+1]^+$ 238.1590, found 238.1589.

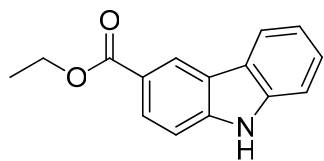
3-Phenyl-carbazole (3f, CAS: 103012-26-6)^[2]



The reaction was conducted with 4-phenylcyclohexanone (**1f**, 34.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3f** as pale yellow solid; yield: 33.0 mg (68%).

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.14-8.08 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.67 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 142.2, 140.1, 139.1, 133.2, 128.7, 127.3, 126.5, 126.1, 125.5, 124.0, 123.6, 120.4, 119.6, 118.9, 110.8, 110.7 MS (EI) m/z (%): 243 (100), 227, 213, 139, 120.

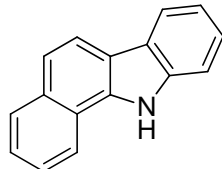
Ethyl carbazole-3-carboxylate (3g, CAS: 51035-14-4) ^[3]



The reaction was conducted with ethyl 4-oxocyclohexanecarboxylate (**1g**, 31.9 μ L, 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3g** as pale yellow solid; yield: 33.9 mg (71%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.15-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 1H), 4.44 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 167.5, 142.3, 140.0, 127.5, 126.5, 123.4, 123.2, 122.8, 121.9, 120.7, 120.3, 110.9, 110.1, 60.7, 14.5; MS (EI) m/z (%): 239, 224, 211, 194 (100), 166, 139.

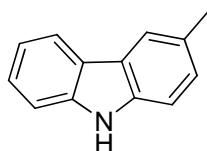
1,2-Benzocarbazole (3j, CAS: 239-01-0) ^[2]



The reaction was conducted with 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-one (**1j**, 26.7 μ L, 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2a**, 43.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3j** as pale yellow solid; yield: 34.7 mg (80%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.14-7.99 (m, 4H), 7.66-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 138.6, 134.9, 132.5, 129.1, 125.6, 125.2, 124.9, 124.3, 121.2, 120.5, 120.3, 120.0, 119.9, 119.3, 118.6, 111.1. MS (EI) m/z (%): 217 (100), 189, 163, 108, 94.

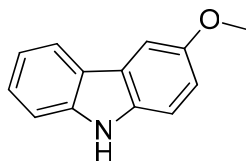
3-Methyl-carbazole (3k, CAS: 4630-20-0) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), *p*-tolylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2b**, 47.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3k** as pale yellow solid; yield: 21.7 mg (63%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.20 (m, 5H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.9, 137.8, 128.8, 127.2, 125.7, 123.6, 123.3, 120.3, 120.2, 119.3, 110.6, 110.3, 21.4; MS (EI) m/z (%): 181 (100), 152, 127, 90, 77.

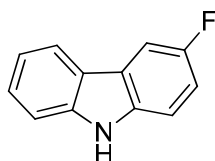
3-Methoxy-carbazole (**3l**, CAS: 18992-85-3) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), (4-methoxyphenyl)hydrazine hydrochloride (**2c**, 52.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to give **3l** as pale yellow solid; yield: 24.0 mg (61%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.06 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 154.0, 140.4, 134.5, 125.8, 123.9, 123.4, 120.3, 119.1, 115.1, 111.3, 110.8, 103.4, 56.2; MS (EI) m/z (%): 197, 182 (100), 154, 139, 127, 98.

3-Fluoro-carbazole (**3m**, CAS: 391-45-7) ^[1]

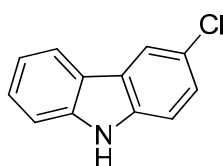


The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), (4-fluorophenyl)hydrazine hydrochloride (**2d**, 48.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by

column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3m** as pale yellow solid; yield: 29.6 mg (80%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.03-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 157.6 ($J = 235.0$ Hz), 140.6, 135.8, 126.4, 124.0 ($J = 9.7$ Hz), 123.2 ($J = 3.8$ Hz), 120.6, 119.5, 113.6 ($J = 25.5$ Hz), 111.1 ($J = 9.0$ Hz), 110.9, 106.0 ($J = 23.7$ Hz); MS (EI) m/z (%): 185 (100), 164, 157, 131, 92.

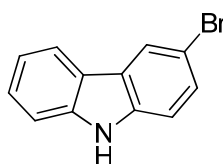
3-Chloro-carbazole (**3n**, CAS: 2732-25-4) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), (4-chlorophenyl)hydrazine hydrochloride (**2e**, 53.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3n** as pale yellow solid; yield: 30.2 mg (75%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.07-8.02 (m, 3H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 140.1, 137.8, 126.6, 125.9, 125.0, 124.7, 122.6, 120.5, 120.1, 119.9, 111.5, 110.8; MS (EI) m/z (%): 201 (100), 174, 166, 139, 113, 82.

3-Bromo-carbazole (**3o**, CAS: 1592-95-6) ^[4]

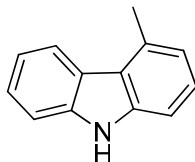


The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μL , 0.2 mmol), (4-bromophenyl)hydrazine hydrochloride (**2f**, 66.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3o** as pale yellow solid; yield: 33.3 mg (68%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.08-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.9, 138.1, 128.6, 126.6, 125.3, 123.1,

122.5, 120.5, 119.9, 112.3, 112.0, 110.8; MS (EI) m/z (%): 247 (100), 166, 139, 123, 113, 82.

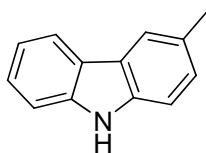
4-Methyl-carbazole (3p, CAS: 6510-65-2) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μ L, 0.2 mmol), *o*-tolylhydrazine hydrochloride (**2g**, 47.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3p** as pale yellow solid; yield: 15.2 mg (42%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.07 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.5, 138.9, 126.4, 125.8, 125.7, 124.0, 123.0, 120.5, 119.6, 119.5, 118.0, 110.7, 16.8; MS (EI) m/z (%): 197, 182 (100), 154, 139, 127, 98.

3-Methyl-carbazole (3r, CAS: 4630-20-0) ^[1]



The reaction was conducted with cyclohexanone (**1a**, 20.7 μ L, 0.2 mmol), phenylhydrazine sulfate (**2i**, 61.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3r** as pale yellow solid; yield: 26.1 mg (72%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 8.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.20 (m, 5H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, ppm): δ 139.9, 137.8, 128.8, 127.2, 125.7, 123.6, 123.3, 120.3, 120.2, 119.3, 110.6, 110.3, 21.4; MS (EI) m/z (%): 181 (100), 152, 127, 90, 77.

References:

- [1] Stokes, B. J.; Jovanovic, B.; Dong, H.; Richert, K. J.; Riell, R. D.; Driver, T. G. *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 3225.
[2] Buden, M. E.; Vaillard, V. A.; Martin, S. E.; Rossi, R. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 4490.

[3] Yang, W.; Zhou, J.; Wang, B.; Ren, H. *Chem-Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 13665.

[4] Midya, A.; Yang, J.; Loh, K.; Xie, Z.; Wang, J.; Chen, Z.-K. *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, *46*, 2091.

^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra for all compounds

