Synthesis of 2-Amino-imidazoles, Purines, and Benzoxazolamines Through DIB Oxidation

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

General:

All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers as noted in the procedures and were used without further purification. Diacetoxy-iodobenzene was purchased from TCI and oxalyl chloride from Aldrich. All reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere unless stated otherwise.

The following instrumentation was used in this study unless otherwise noted. 1D-NMR, proton and 13C NMR spectra were conducted either on a Bruker Avance spectrometer at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively, or on a Bruker Avance II spectrometer with cryoprobe at 600 MHz and 150 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm on the δ scale. Multiplicities are described as s (singlet), d (doublet), st (sextuplet), sp (septuplet), dd, ddd, etc. (doublet of doublets, doublet of doublets of doublets, etc.), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and further qualified as br (broad). Coupling constants, J, are reported in Hz. The infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer 1710 Infrared Fourier Transform spectrometer. The low resolution mass spectra were recorded by using an Agilent HP 1090 LC equipped with a VG Fisons Micromass Quattro I mass spectrometer. High resolution mass spectrospcopy was run on a Waters Q-Tof apparatus. TLC solvents were the same as those used for flash chromatography with Rf $\approx_{es} 0.25$

General procedure for formamides synthesis:

Formamides were prepared according to a slightly modified procedure described by Moffat et al. (Moffat, J.; Newton, M.V.; Papenmeier, G.J. J. Org.Chem. **1962**, 27, 4058): the secondary amine was dissolved in EtOH/ethyl formate (1/1) ([c]= ca. 1 M) and refluxed for 10 hours. A fractional distillation gave the desired formamide as a clear oil. Alternatively, the distillation can be skipped by simply pumping off the ethanol and the excess of ethyl formate at the end of the reaction. Although this procedure yielded generally a yellow oil, both procedures were equivalent in term of yield for the subsequent reactions.

General procedure for 2-amino-imidazoles synthesis:

The 1,2-diamine (1 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile ([c] = ca. 0.2 M). In another flask, the formamide (1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in DCM ([c] = ca. 0.4 M) at 5°C and oxalyl chloride (1.2 equiv.) was then added drop-wise. Once the evolution of gas stopped (usually after 5 min) the content of this flask was added slowly (~ 2 mL/min) to the 1,2-diamine solution with vigorous stirring. The HCl salt of the formamidine intermediate precipitated immediately, and LCMS analysis showed completion of the reaction 5 min after the end of the addition. Water (2 mL) was then added followed by diacetoxy-iodobenzene (1.1 equiv.). After 5-10 min, LCMS analysis showed total formation of the 2-amino-imidazole. Aqueous NaHCO₃ (saturated, 5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and the solution was extracted with DCM. The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography using elution gradient mentioned in the text.

General procedure for 2-amino-benzoxazolamines synthesis:

The 2-amino-phenol (1 mmol) was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane ([c] = ca. 0.2 M). In another flask, the formamide (1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in DCM ([c] = ca. 0.4 M) at 5°C and oxalyl chloride (1.2 equiv.) was then added drop-wise. Once the evolution of gas stopped (usually after 5 min) the content of this flask was added slowly (~ 2 mL/min) to the 2-amino-phenol solution with vigorous stirring. The HCl salt of the formamidine intermediate precipitated and LCMS analysis showed completion of the reaction 5 min after the end of the addition. NaOH 2M (2 mL) was

then added followed by diacetoxy-iodobenzene (1.1 equiv.). After 5-10 min, LCMS analysis showed total formation of the 2-amino-benzoxazolamine. Water (15 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and the solution was extracted with DCM. The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography using elution gradient mentioned in the text.

2-Pyrrolidine-imidazole-4,5-dicarbonitrile. Compound 11 (Table 1, entry 1):



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-imidazoles and starting from 1 mmol of diaminomaleonitrile, compound **5** was obtained as a solid (162 mg, 86%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

Mp: 82-84°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 5.07 (s, 1H), 3.44 (s, 4H), 2.05 (s, 4H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 154.4, 114.7, 113.2, 49.5, 27.3; **IR** (neat): 2231, 1655, 1620, 1555, 1358 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 188.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₉H₁₀N₅ (M+H⁺): 188.0936; found: 188.0938.

Compound 12 (Table 1, entry 2):



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-imidazoles and starting from 1 mmol of 5,6-diamino-1,3-dimethyluracil hydrate, dried under high vacuum at 50°C for 24 hours, compound **6** was obtained as a solid (346 mg, 87%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

Mp: 292-296°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 11.82 (br, 1H), 7.40-7.29 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 3.51 (br, 6H), 3.36-3.32 (br, 6H), 3.20 (br, 2H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 155.4, 155.2, 153.6, 152.1, 149.5, 137.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 103.2, 100.4, 67.3, 46.2, 43.6, 30.5, 28.4; **IR** (neat): 3089, 1698, 1658, 1537, 1272 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 399.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₉H₂₃N₆O₄ (M+H⁺): 399.1781; found: 399.1791.

Synthesis of starting material for compound 13:



The starting material 2-(*n*-propyl)-amino-4-nitroaniline was prepared in 77% yield by a modified procedure used to describe the synthesis of 2-ethylamino-4-nitroaniline:¹ 2-Amino-4-nitroaniline (3 mmol) was dissolved in 6 mL of DMF and cesium carbonate (6 mmol) and 1-iodo-propane (4 mmol) were added. After stirring for 2 days, water (10 mL) was added and the product was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, washed with water (3 x 15 mL) and brine and then dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was further purified by column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc (3/2) to give 2-(*n*-propyl)-amino-4-nitroaniline (450 mg, 77%) as a red solid.²

Mp: 80-82°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.66 (dd, J = 8.6; 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J= 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J= 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (br, 2H), 3.24 (br, 1H), 3.12 (t, J= 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (m, 2 H), 1.05 (t, J= 7.4 Hz, 3H); **NMR** ¹³C (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 142.0, 140.8, 136.3, 116.4, 113.4, 107.0, 46.1, 22.6, 11.7; **MS** (ESI⁺): 196.3 (M+H⁺).

Compound 13 (Table 1, entry 3):



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-imidazoles and starting from 1 mmol of 2-(*n*-propyl)-amino-4-nitroaniline, imidazole **7** was obtained as a solid (201 mg, 73%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc 30% \rightarrow 100%).

Mp: 44-49°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 8.11 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, J= 8.9; 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J= 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (t, J= 7.59 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (m, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 1.82 (st, J= 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (d, J= 6.2 Hz, 6H), 0.89 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 3H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 164.3, 149.0, 143.7, 136.9, 120.0, 117.3, 107.4, 54.8, 48.7, 32.6, 23.9, 20.4, 12.2; **IR** (neat): 2979, 2875, 1544, 1471, 1298 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 277.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₄H₂₁N₄O₂ (M+H⁺): 277.1665; found: 277.1671.

Compound 14 (Table 1, entry 4):



A slightly different procedure³ was used to prepare compound 8. The formamide (1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in DCM ([c] = ca. 0.2 M) at 5°C under nitrogen and oxalyl chloride (1.2 equiv.) was then added drop-wise. Once the gas evolution was finished (usually after 5 min), the 1,2-diamine (5 mmol) was added slowly. After 10 min, diacetoxy-iodobenzene (1.0 equiv.) was

¹ Carella, A.; Centore, R.; Fort, A.; Peluso, A.; Sirigu, A.; Tuzi, A. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2004, 2620.

² The regioselectivity of the alkylation has been unambiguously determined by HMBC correlation between C_2 and H_7 .

³ No water was added after the formation of the formamidine. It resulted in heterogeneous reaction with DIB and consequently longer reaction time was required for the reaction to go to completion. Because of this, this procedure was not use for the other substrates. The heterogeneity of the reaction was also a concern for future scale-up.

added and the solution was stirred for 10 hours. The solvents were concentrated and the residue was directly purified by flash chromatography using DCM/MeOH 9/1 to give the xanthine **8** as a solid (1.250 g, 97%).

Mp: 258-260°C (Ethanol); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 11.48 (s, 1H), 4.46 (sp, J= 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.84 (s, 3H) 1.11 (d, J= 6.8 Hz, 6H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 154.5, 151.9, 150.8, 148.8, 101.3, 47.3, 29.1, 27.9, 27.0, 18.7; **IR** (neat): 3148, 2980, 1704, 1658, 1620, 1532, 1404 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 252.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₁H₁₈N₅O₂ (M+H⁺): 252.1460; found: 252.1453.

Compound 15 (Table 1, entry 5)⁴:



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-imidazoles and starting from 2 mmol of N-methyl-1,2-phenylenediamine, compound **9** was obtained as an oil (260 mg, 65%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

NMR ¹**H** (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 7.31 (dd, J= 7.0; 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J= 7.0; 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.61-3.56 (m, 4H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 4H); **NMR** ¹³**C** (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 156.8, 141.3, 136.0, 121.2, 119.8, 115.0, 107.7, 49.9, 30.4, 25.3; **IR** (neat): 2974, 2867, 1615, 1600, 1567, 1468, 1397 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 202.4 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₂H₁₆N₃ (M+H⁺): 202.1344; found: 202.1344.

Compound 16 (Table 1, entry 6):



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-imidazoles and starting from 1 mmol of diaminomaleonitrile, compound **10** was obtained as a solid (178 mg, 82%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

Mp: 79-81°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 4.98 (br, 1H), 3.31 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.61 (st, J= 7.5 Hz, 4H), 0.91 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 6H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 154.9, 112.6, 51.9, 21.9, 11.4; **IR** (neat): 2967, 2233, 1601, 1322 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 218.4 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₁H₁₆N₅ (M+H⁺): 218.1406; found: 218.1408.

Compound 17 (Table 1, entry 7):

⁴ C. T. Brain, S. A. Brunton, *Tet. Lett.*, 2002, **43**, 1893 (compound isolated as the formate salt).



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-benzoxazolamines and starting from 1 mmol of 2-amino-5-nitrophenol, compound **11** was obtained as a solid (176 mg, 67%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

Mp: 65-67°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.15 (dd, J= 5.8; 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J= 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J= 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.74 (m, 4H), 0.99 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 6H); **NMR** ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 165.6, 150.8, 148.0, 141.1, 121.6, 114.5, 105.0, 50.8, 21.3, 11.3; **IR** (neat): 2966, 1651, 1586, 1323, 1283 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 264.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₃H₁₈N₃O₃ (M+H⁺): 264.1348; found: 264.1346.

Compound 18 (Table 1, entry 8):



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-benzoxazolamines and starting from 1 mmol of 2-amino-4-phenylphenol, compound **12** was obtained as an oil (215 mg, 81%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

NMR ¹**H** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.65-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.45 (t, J= 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J= 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J= 8.4; 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (sp, J= 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 1.28 (d, J= 7.2 Hz, 6H); **NMR** ¹³**C** (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 163.2, 148.4, 144.2, 141.8, 137.6, 128.8, 127.3, 126.9, 119.5, 114.6, 108.5, 48.8, 28.4, 19.6; **IR** (neat): 3031, 2976, 1646, 1586, 1469, 1425, 1133 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 267.3 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₇H₁₉N₂O (M+H⁺): 267.1497; found: 267.1501.

Compound 19 (Table 1, entry 9)⁵:



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-benzoxazolamines and starting from 1 mmol of 2-amino-5-nitrophenol, compound **13** was obtained as a solid (214 mg, 56%)

⁵ K. G. Liua, J. R. Loa, T. A. Comeryb, G. M. Zhangb, J. Y. Zhangb, D. M. Kowalb, D. L. Smithb, L. Dia, E. H. Kernsa, L. E. Schechterb and A. J. Robichauda, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 2009, **19**, 1115. Compound **19** was not isolated and characterized but instead reduced directly to the corresponding aniline.

after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

Mp: 142-144°C (Ethyl acetate / hexanes); **NMR** ¹**H** (600 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 8.28 (d, J= 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, J= 8.4; 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 6H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 3.75-3.66 (br, 4H), 3.64-3.53 (br, 4H); **NMR** ¹³**C** (150 MHz, DMSO d₆) δ : 165.1, 155.0, 150.7, 148.2, 141.2, 137.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 122.1, 115.4, 105.7, 67.2, 45.6, 43.3; **IR** (neat): 2931, 1703, 1646, 1586, 1332, 1242 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 383.1 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₉H₁₉N₄O₅ (M+H⁺): 383.1355; found: 383.1340.

Compound 20 (Table 1, entry 10)⁶:



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-benzoxazolamines and starting from 1 mmol of 2-aminophenol, compound **14** was obtained as an oil (161 mg, 74%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc 0% \rightarrow 100%). **NMR** ¹**H** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.36 (d, J= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (td, J= 7.8; 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (td, J= 7.8; 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, J= 7.8 Hz, 4H), 1.71 (st, J= 7.8 Hz, 4H), 0.97 (t, J= 7.8 Hz, 6H); **NMR** ¹³**C** (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 162.9, 148.9, 143.9, 123.9, 120.1, 116.0, 108.6, 50.5, 24.4, 11.4; **IR** (neat): 2964, 1646, 1582, 1461, 1245 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 219.4 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for C₁₃H₁₉N₂O (M+H⁺): 219.1497; found: 219.1498.

Compound 22.



According to the general procedure for the formation of 2-amino-benzoxazolamines and starting from 1 mmol of 2-amino-4-chlorophenol, compound **16** was obtained as an oil (263 mg, 56%) after column chromatography using Hexanes/EtOAc with an elution gradient (EtOAc $0\% \rightarrow 100\%$).

NMR ¹**H** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.06 (d, J= 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J= 8.5; 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J= 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J= 8.6; 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 4H), 3.2 (br, 2H), 3.06 (br, 2H), 1.70 (st, J= 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.51-1.36 (br, 4H), 0.96 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 6H), 0.83-0.70 (br, 6H); **NMR** ¹³**C** (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 163.4, 155.6, 153.7, 147.6, 146.0, 144.5, 144.1, 129.3, 122.5, 122.4, 122.2, 108.6, 108.0, 104.7, 53.1, 50.3, 46.6, 22.3, 21.2, 20.0,

⁶ S. Guo, B. Qian, Y. Xie, C. Xia and H. Huang, Org. Lett., 2011, 13, 522.

11.2, 11.1, 11.0; **IR** (neat): 2964, 1633, 1582, 1465 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI⁺): 471 (M+H⁺); **HRMS** Calc. for $C_{26}H_{36}N_4O_2Cl$ (M+H⁺): 471.2527; found: 471.2530.











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