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J. Org. Chem., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.8b00211 • Publication Date (Web): 05 Mar 2018

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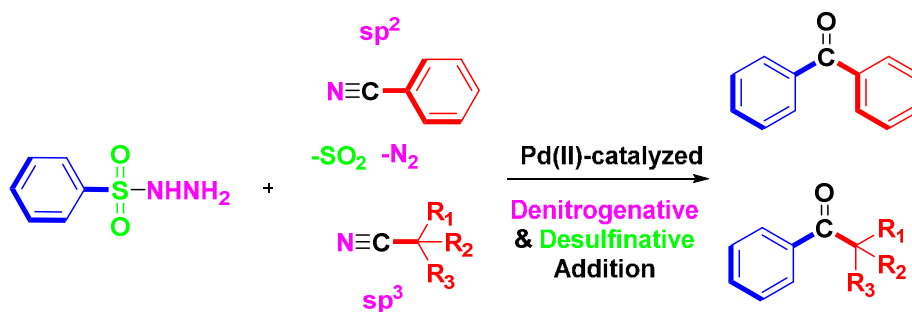
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Pd(II)-catalyzed Denitrogenative & Desulfinitive Addition of Arylsulfonyl Hydrazides with Nitriles

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Abstracts

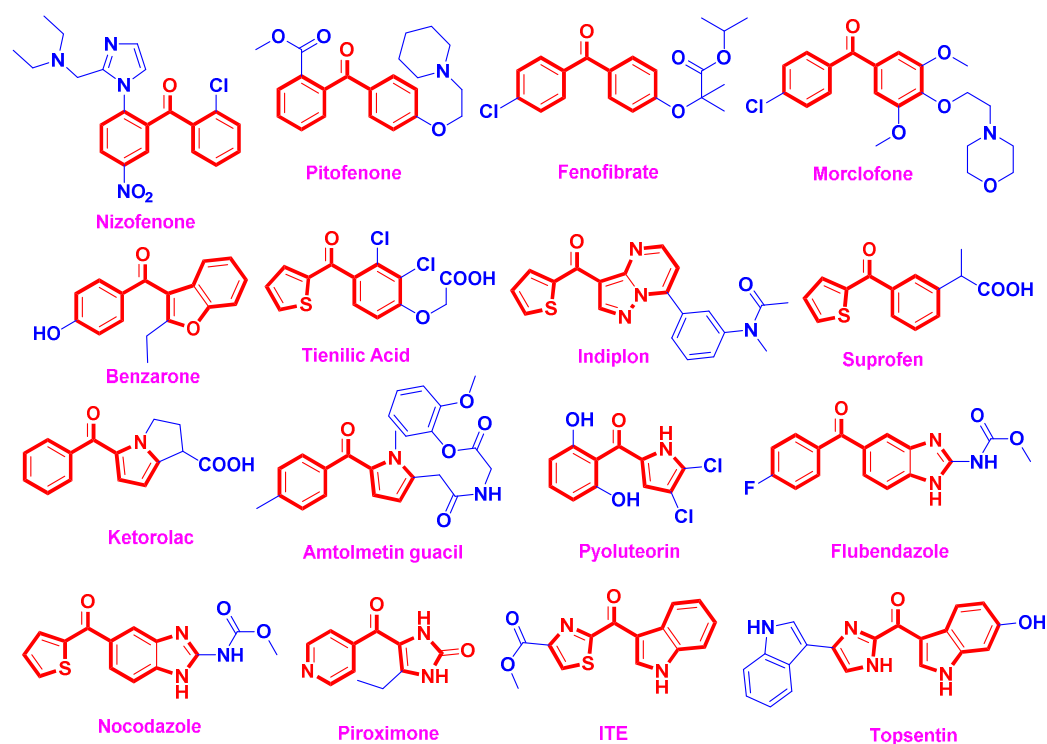
A Pd(II)-catalyzed denitrogenative & desulfinitive addition of arylsulfonyl hydrazides with nitriles has been successfully achieved under mild conditions. This transformation is a new method for the addition reaction to nitriles with arylsulfonyl hydrazides as arylating agent, thus providing an alternative synthesis of aryl ketones. The reported addition reaction is tolerant to many common functional groups, and work well in the presence of electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents. Notably, the reported denitrogenative & desulfinitive addition was also be appropriate for alkyl nitriles, making this newly developed transformation attractive.

Keywords: denitrogenative & desulfinitive addition, arylsulfonyl hydrazides,

Pd(II)-catalyzed, addition with nitriles, synthesis of aryl ketones

Introduction

The aryl ketone moiety is one of the most fundamental and common building blocks occurring in many pharmaceuticals, fragrances, natural products and synthetic biologically active molecules.¹ Aryl ketones are widely regarded as a privileged skeleton with broad pharmaceutical activities, including neuroprotective drug (Nizofenone), antiarrhythmic (Pitofenone), hypolipidemic (Fenofibrate), antitussive (Morclofone), uricosuric (Benzarone, Tienilic acid), anxiolytic (Indiplon), anti-inflammatory (Suprofen, Ketorolac), NSAID (Amtolmetin guacil), antiseptic (Pyoluteorin), antihelminthic (Flubendazole), antineoplastic (Nocodazole), phosphodiesterase inhibitor (Piroximone), anticancer (ITE) and antitumor (Topsentin). (Scheme 1)



Scheme 1 Arylketone Skeletons in Drug Molecule

Classical routes to synthesize aryl ketones mainly rely on the Friedel–Crafts acylation of

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3 aromatic compounds in the presence of strong Lewis acids such as corrosive AlCl_3 , although the
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6 reaction sometimes fails with electron-deficient arenes and suffer from low functional group
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8 tolerance generally yields the desired products as isomeric mixtures.² The reactions of
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10 stoichiometric organometallic compounds with acid chlorides, or Weinreb amides are also popular
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12 and well-known for the preparation of ketones, provides us with an protocol for the synthesis of
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14 aryl ketones.³ However, the poor functional group tolerance and strict handling requirement of the
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16 organometallic reagents limits their applications and thus there is a need for cleaner, milder and
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18 catalytic alternatives.⁴ Consequently, it continues to inspire the development of methods for the
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20 construction of this structural element. During the last decade, transition metal catalysts have been
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22 utilized for the synthesis of many compounds, and transition-metal-catalyzed reactions provide
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24 many opportunities for the synthesis of aryl ketones.⁵

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30 Nitriles are normally very stable and widely commercially available. On the other hand,
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32 transformations of nitriles play an important role in both the laboratory and industry due to their
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34 well-recognized chemical versatility. The nucleophilic addition of organometallic reagents to
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36 nitriles is an old and well-known reaction for ketone preparation. However, the nitrile group is
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38 generally inert in organometallic reactions, and thus acetonitriles or benzonitriles usually
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40 participate as solvents or ligands in transition-metal-catalyzed coupling reactions.⁶ Among them, it
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42 is an attractive and useful synthetic method for preparing aryl ketones from aryl halides and
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44 nitriles through selective addition and subsequent in situ hydrolysis. In recent years, the
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46 transition-metal-catalyzed addition reaction has resulted in great progress in the synthesis of aryl
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48 ketones from nitriles. The addition of arylpalladium species to the cyano group, pioneered by the
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50 Larock group⁷ and elegantly employed in recent years,⁸ provided a conceptual basis for this
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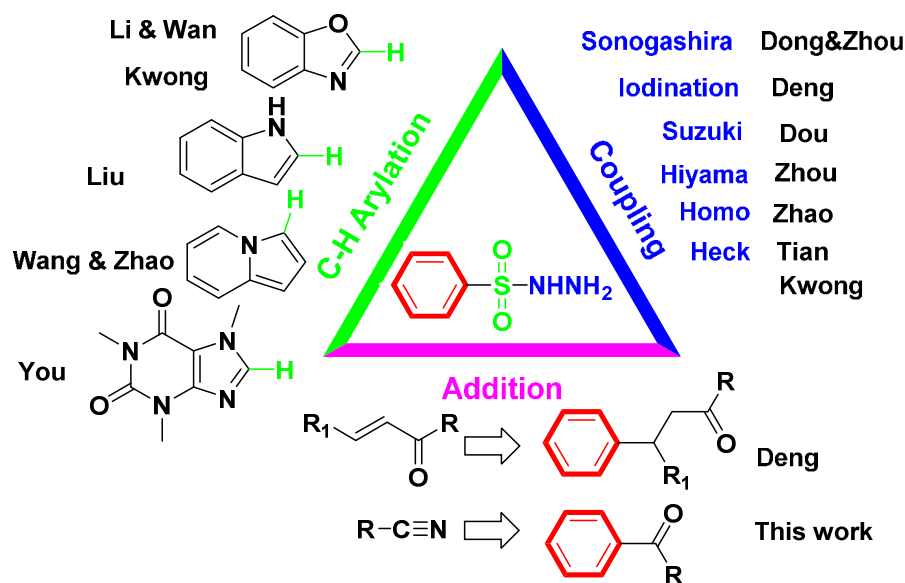
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4 palladium-catalyzed approach.

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6 Arylsulfonyl hydrazides are multipurpose and readily accessible intermediates in organic
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8 synthesis, which are more air-stable than sulfonyl chlorides, can be synthesized directly from the
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10 reaction of hydrazine hydrates with arylsulfonyl chloride.⁹ In general, they exist as solids that are
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12 noncorrosive, compatible with water, and free of unpleasant odor. The electrophiles avoid the
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14 production of undesired halide-containing byproducts and hence are more environmentally
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16 desirable. Arylsulfonyl hydrazides are good cross-coupling partners for ready generation of
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18 reactive diazo compounds,¹⁰ as sulfonyl sources in organic synthesis.¹¹ Arylsulfonyl hydrazides
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20 can also react with carbon nucleophilic reagents by I₂ to form various C–S bonds as sulfenylation
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22 reagents.¹² Recently, these compounds have also successfully been used as aryl sources via
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24 desulfination–denitrogenation have also been used in desulfinative cross-coupling reactions.¹³
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26 Desulfinative reactions not only produce sulfur dioxide as their main byproduct, but the loss of
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28 gaseous SO₂ is also the main driving force of desulfinative processes.¹⁴ In order to achieve greener,
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30 more sustainable chemistry, this gas should not be wasted but rather recycled, possibly as the
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32 feedstock for another process.¹⁵
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40 Nowadays, arylsulfonyl hydrazides have been acted as arylating agents under desulfinative
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42 processes (Scheme 2), mostly by direct C–H arylation of heteroarenes¹⁶ (such as benzoxazole,
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44 indole, indolizine, caffeine), and cross-coupling reaction¹⁷ (such as Sonogashira, Suzuki, Hiyama,
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46 Heck, iodination and homocoupling). However, the desulfinative addition with arylsulfonyl
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48 hydrazides was under development. The only example was reported by Deng et al.¹⁸ for
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50 desulfinative conjugate addition of unsaturated carbonyl compounds. In continuing with our
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52 interest in desulfinative coupling and addition with nitriles,¹⁹ herein we reported the first example
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of desulfinate addition of nitriles with arylsulfonyl hydrazides with good to excellent efficiency.

Both aryl and alkyl nitriles could afford corresponding aryl ketones in high yields.



Scheme 2 Pd-catalyzed denitrogenative & desulfinate reaction of arylsulfonyl hydrazides

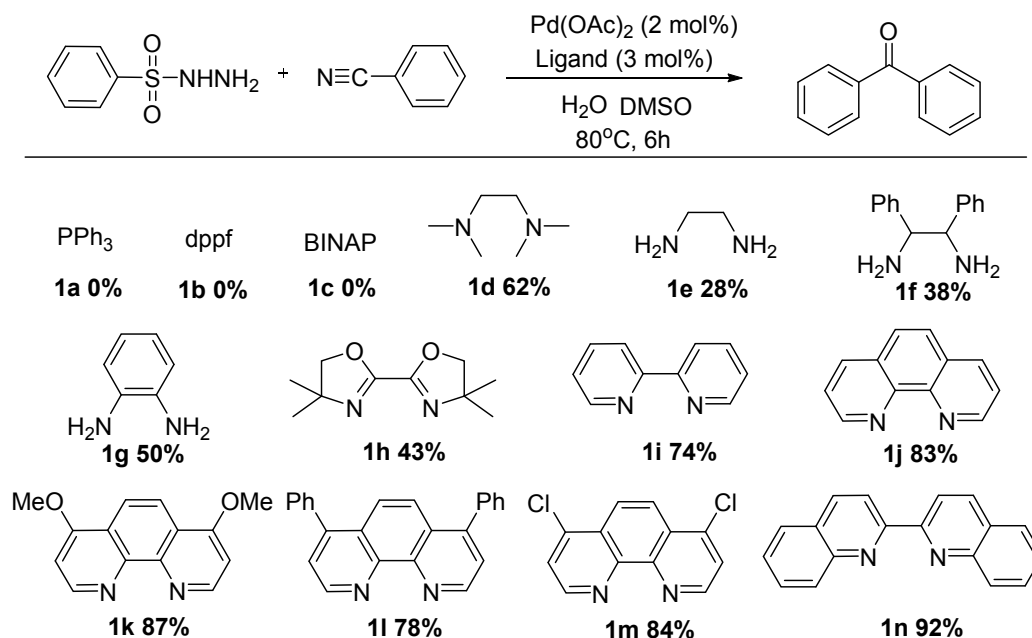
Results and Discussion

Our studies commenced by evaluating the feasibility of the desulfinate addition reaction with the investigation of reaction parameters with phenylsulfonyl hydrazides and benzonitrile in the presence of active cationic Pd(II) species. The use of Pd(OAc)₂ was explored in DMSO with 1 equiv H₂O at 80°C under air in the presence of various ligands used previously in analogous Pd-catalyzed transformations (Table 1). Unsurprisingly, the phosphine ligands (PPh₃, dppf, BINAP), which has been recognized as a weakly coordinating promoter in desulfinate reaction, failed to generate the desired product (Table 1, **1a-1c**). To our delight, 62% yield of the desired desulfinate addition product was found using 3 mol% of tetramethylethane-1,2-diamine (TMEDA) as ligand (Table 1, **1d**). A series of diamine ligands, including 1,2-diamine, 1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diamine and benzene-1,2-diamine, was subsequently tested, and each of these catalysts was less effective than TMEDA (Table 1, **1e-1g**).

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4,4,4',4'-Tetramethyl-4,4',5,5'-tetrahydro-2,2'-bioxazole was ineffective to this transformation (Table 1, **1h**). To our delight, the application of bpy ligand (2,2'-bipyridine) increased the yields to 71% (Table 1, **1i**). A screen of various phen-type ligands, such as 1,10-phenanthroline (phen), 4,7-dimethoxy-1,10-phenanthroline, 4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline, 4,7-dichloro-1,10-phenanthroline and 2,2'-biquinoline (bq), revealed bq was the best choice (Table 1, **1j-1n**). In general, the use of a ligand is essential to obtain synthetically useful yield of biphenyl ketone from the desulfinative addition reaction. Additionally, no desired product is obtained in the absence of any ligands.

Table 1 Ligand selection of the desulfinative addition reaction ^a



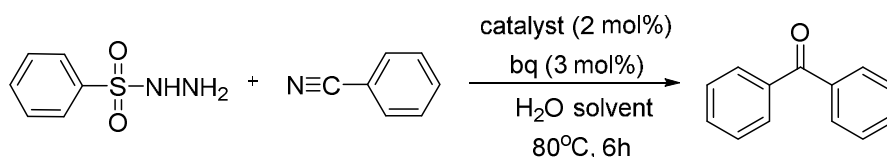
^a Reaction conditions: phenylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.1 mmol), benzonitrile (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), ligand (3 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL), 80 °C, 6 h. Isolated yields.

Encouraged by the aforementioned results, other reaction conditions were investigated, including the choice of catalyst and solvent. The results are summarized in Table 2. We initially

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3 examined palladium, ruthenium, and rhodium catalysts, respectively, using phenylsulfonyl
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5 hydrazide and benzonitrile as our standard substrates and bq as the ligand. The reactions were
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7 carried out in DMSO with 1 equiv H₂O at 80 °C for 6 h. It was shown that Rh and Ru complex are
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9 not effective for this reaction (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). The reaction failed to proceed in the
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11 absence of palladium catalyst (Table 1, entry 3), suggesting that palladium catalyst is very crucial
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13 for the formation of benzophenone compound. As detailed in Table 2, the optimal conditions for
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15 the desulfinate addition can be applied toward the use of other palladium catalysts. Application
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17 of Pd(dba)₂ as a catalyst yielded traces of desired product (Table 2, entry 4). It was observed that
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19 most of the Pd(II) catalysts could successfully promote the reaction (Table 2, entries 5–12).
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21 Therefore, PdCl₂, PdBr₂ and PdI₂ in combination with bq was applied affording benzophenone in
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23 yields varying between 72% and 82% (Table 2, entries 5-7). It should be noted that Pd(TFA)₂ and
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25 Pd(OTf)₂ were less effective than Pd(OAc)₂ for this reaction (Table 2, entries 8–10). Among the
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27 Pd(II) catalysts tested, Pd(OAc)₂ was the most effective affording the addition product in 92%
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29 yield (Table 2, entry 10). The introduction of various palladium with nitrogen ligands
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31 (Pd(CH₃CN)₂Cl₂ and Pd(PhCN)₂Cl₂) didn't increased the yields (Table 2, entries 11–12). Various
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33 solvents were screened, and the results revealed that aprotic solvent is the better choice for the
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35 reaction (Table 2, entries 13–15). Although many traditional solvents have been tested, no better
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37 results were obtained (Table 2, entries 16–18). Only a trace amount of product was detected with
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39 other solvent, such as EA, hexane and DCM (Table 2, entries 19–21). Unfortunately, the desired
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41 product was not obtained in water (Table 2, entry 22). Moreover, the yield was slightly decreased
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43 when the reaction was performed in DMSO with a lower or higher amount of additional water
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45 (Table 2, entries 23–24). Among these, DMSO was determined optimum, and benzophenone was
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isolated in 92% yield.

Table 2 Desulfurative addition of phenylsulfonyl hydrazides with benzonitrile with various catalysts in various solvents ^a



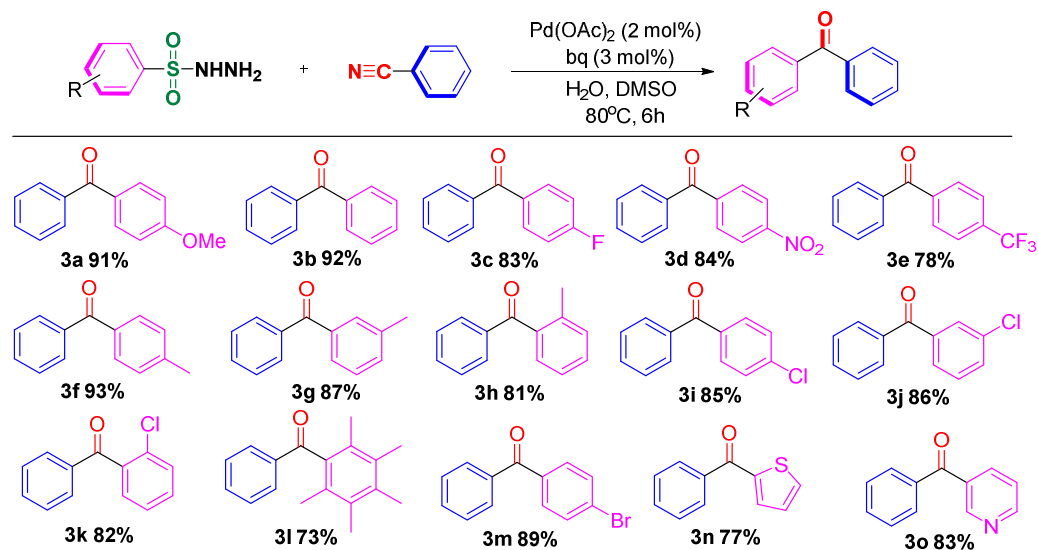
entry	catalyst (in DMSO)	yield (%) ^b	entry	Solvent (with Pd(OAc) ₂)	yield (%) ^c
1	RuCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₃	-	13	DMF	88
2	RhCl(PPh ₃) ₃	-	14	DMA	81
3	-	-	15	acetone	73
4	Pd(dba) ₂	<5	16	1,4-dioxane	53
5	PdCl ₂	77	17	THF	45
6	PdBr ₂	82	18	DME	60
7	PdI ₂	72	19	EA	<5
8	Pd(TFA) ₂	81	20	hexane	<5
9	Pd(OTs) ₂	86	21	DCM	<5
10	Pd(OAc) ₂	92	22	H ₂ O	-
11	Pd(CH ₃ CN) ₂ Cl ₂	83	23	DMSO	77 ^d
12	Pd(PhCN) ₂ Cl ₂	78	24	DMSO	84 ^e

^a Reaction conditions: phenylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.1 mmol), benzonitrile (1.0 mmol), bq (3 mol%), 80 °C, 6 h. Isolated yields. ^b catalyst (2 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL). ^c Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), solvent (2 mL). ^d Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), H₂O (1.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL). ^e Isolated yields. Pd(OAc)₂

(2 mol%), H₂O (4.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL).

Furthermore, considerable efforts have been made to test the substrate scope of this reaction under the optimized reaction conditions. We applied this catalytic system to various arylsulfonyl hydrazides with benzonitrile, and this reaction showed good compatibility with different groups on aryl rings (Table 3). Electron-rich, electron-neutral, and electron-deficient arylsulfonyl hydrazides afford the desired products in modest to good yields (Table 3, **3a-3e**). The transformation is compatible with a number of synthetically versatile functional groups including methoxy, fluoro, nitro, and trifluoromethyl. Position varied methyl and chloro phenylsulfonyl hydrazides with *para*-, *meta*- and *ortho*-substitution also couple with benzonitrile to afford the corresponding diaryl ketone products in good yields (Table 3, **3f-3k**). In general, the efficiency of these reactions is attenuated relative to those with high steric hindrance. Treatment of highly steric permethyl phenylsulfonyl hydrazides also provided the desired product in 73% yield (Table 3, **3l**). Notably, when the *p*-bromo phenylsulfonyl hydrazides is used, corresponding desulfinate addition product is obtained in high yield, suggesting that the bromide leaving group in the electrophile could survive and the relative reactivity toward desulfinate addition over traditional coupling methods (Table 3, **3m**). Heteroaryl-substituted sulfonyl hydrazides led to a slightly lower yield of the desired products (Table 3, **3n-3o**).

Table 3 Scope of desulfinate addition with various arylsulfonyl hydrazides ^a



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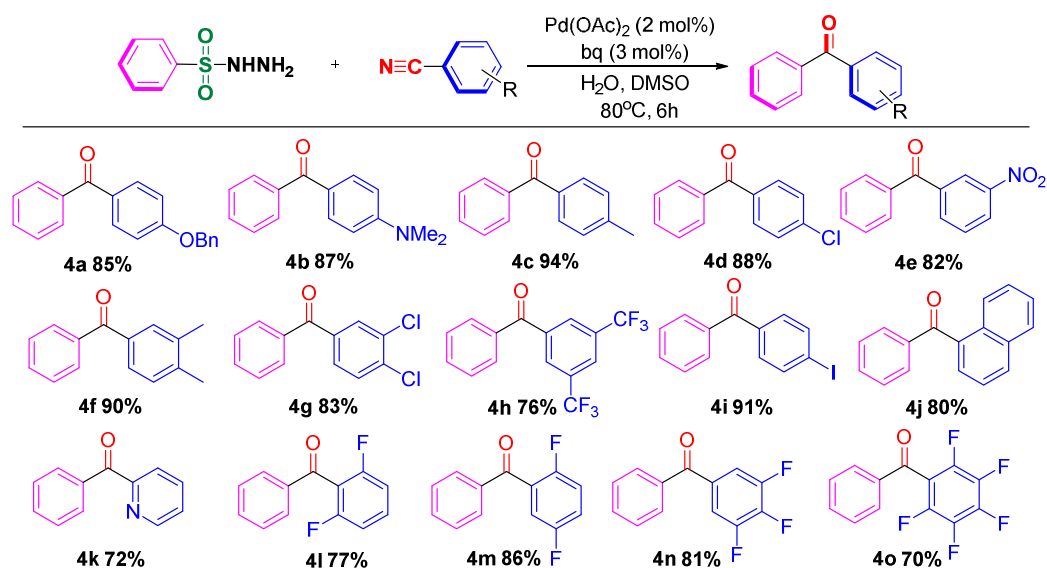
^a Reaction conditions: arylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.1 mmol), benzonitrile (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), bq (3 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL), 80 °C, 6 h. Isolated yields.

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Having explored the preliminary scope for the desulfination of various arylsulfonyl hydrazide, we next examined the reaction of phenylsulfonyl hydrazide with other aryl nitriles (Table 4). Electron-deficient, electron-rich, and moderately electron-deficient aryl nitriles couple with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide to afford the products in good to excellent yields (Table 4, **4a-4e**). In addition, *ortho*- and *meta*-substituted aryl nitriles could also be well tolerated, generating the desired coupling products in moderate to good yields (Table 4, **4f-4g**). *meta*-Trifluoromethyl disubstituted benzonitrile also participate effectively in this desulfination reaction (Table 4, **4h**). The tolerance of the iodo group is especially significant, as successive functional-group transformations are hopeful (Table 4, **4i**). Notably, the naphthalene nitrile also underwent Pd-catalyzed addition method, as did reactions of heteroaromatic nitrile was also proceeded smoothly (Table 4, **4j-4k**). The reaction of multiple fluoro substituted benzonitriles with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide was next examined. Both 2,6-difluoro and 2,5-difluoro benzonitriles

couple with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide to afford the desired products with comparable efficiencies (Table 4, **4l-4m**). However, the efficiency of the reactions using the perfluoro benzonitriles is lower than that with trifluoro substituted and difluoro substituted substrates (Table 4, **4n-4o**).

Table 4 Scope of desulfinative addition with various aryl nitriles ^a



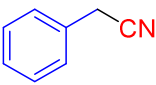
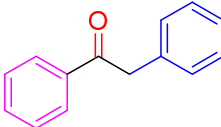
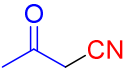
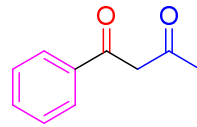

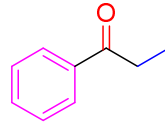
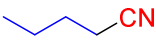
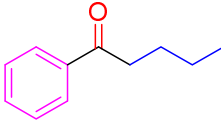

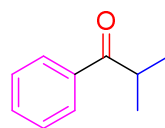
^a Reaction conditions: phenylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.1 mmol), aryl nitrile (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), bq (3 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), DMSO (2 mL), 80 °C, 6 h. Isolated yields.

Inspired by the above excellent results, we set out to explore the desulfinative addition of alkyl nitriles. We begin our research by investigating the reaction of phenyl sulfonyl hydrazides with 2-phenylacetonitrile in DMSO with H₂O by using Pd(OAc)₂ as catalyst and the desired product was obtained in 33% yield. In order to improve the reaction yield, we attempted to optimized the catalysts, ligands, solvents to enhance the reaction efficiency. Thus, we finished the optimization of this challenging reaction with Pd(OAc)₂/phen catalysts and H₂O additive, in DMF solvents at 100 °C (Table 5, entry 1). Table 5 illustrates a preliminary scope for the reaction of various alkyl nitriles with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide. Importantly, 87% yield of product is obtained with

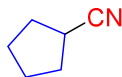
3-oxobutanenitrile under the reaction conditions (Table 5, entry 2). Structurally varied alkyl nitriles were couple with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide to afford the corresponding aryl ketone products in modest to good yields (Table 5, entries 3-6). The reactions of the branched substituted nitriles with phenylsulfonyl hydrazide were also explored and compared to the analogous reactions with linear alkyl nitriles. Notably, for substituent, the yield was slightly enhanced with gradually increasing the size of the substituent from Et, *n*-Bu to *i*-Pr and finally to cyclopentyl.

Table 5 Scope of desulfinate addition of phenylsulfonyl hydrazides with various alkyl nitriles

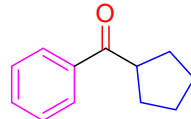
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entry	alkyl nitrile	product	yield (%) ^b
1			90
2			87
3			75
4			82
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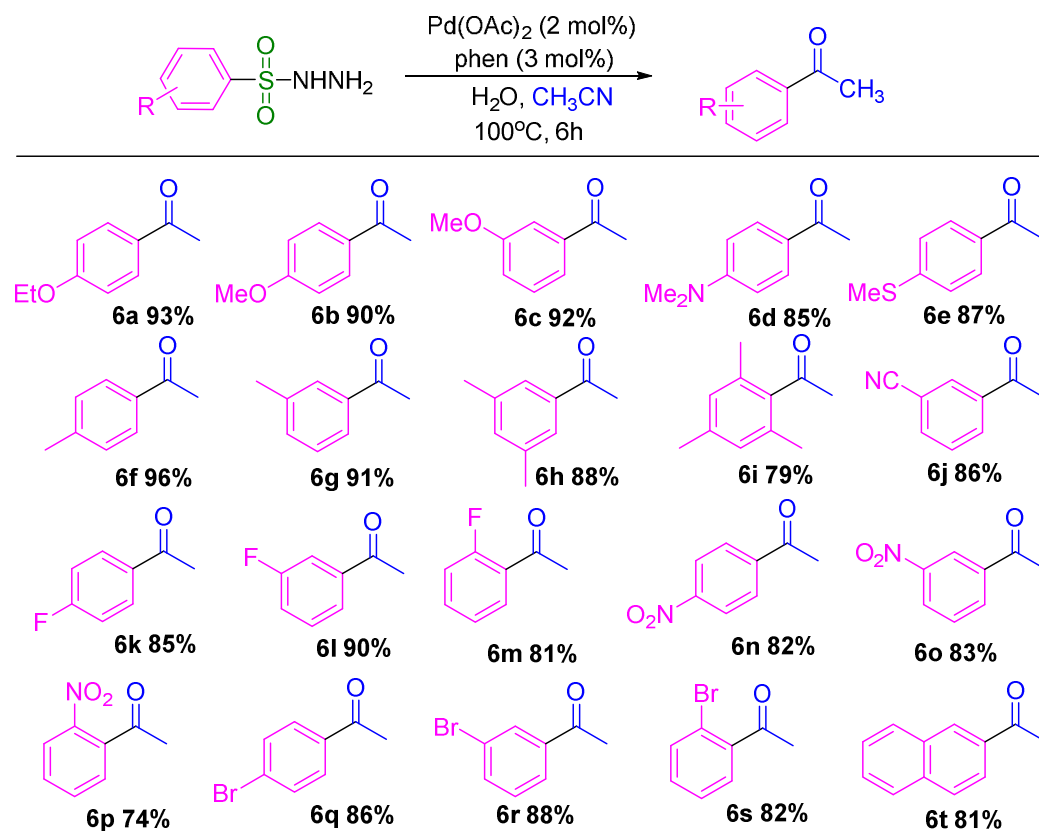


^a Reaction conditions: phenylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.1 mmol), nitrile (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), phen (3 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), DMF (2 mL), 100 °C, 6 h. ^b Isolated yields.

The subsequent solvent examination showed that a recent yield was observed without additional solvent (DMF). The *p*-toluenesulfonyl hydrazide coupling using CH₃CN (2 mL) as the solvent affords product *p*-tolylethanone (96%) in higher yield than product (71%) using CH₃CN (2 equiv) in DMF. Under the optimized reaction conditions, the scope of substituted arylsulfonyl hydrazides was examined with Pd(OAc)₂/phen catalysts and H₂O (2 equiv) in CH₃CN (Table 6). Functional groups such as ethoxy, methoxy, nitro and fluoro were well tolerated under the optimal reaction conditions (Table 6, **6a–6p**). Notably, reaction with arylsulfonylhydrazide bearing NMe₂ and SMe group can also proceed smoothly to give the desired product in 85% and 87% yield and are not affected by the N/S atom (Table 6, **6d–6e**). It was found that arylsulfonyl hydrazides possessing either electron-rich or electron-deficient groups at the *o*-, *m*- or *p*-position proceeded efficiently to afford corresponding aryl ethanone in good to excellent yields (Table 6, **6f–6p**). Furthermore, cyano phenylsulfonyl hydrazide can also be a partner in the reaction to afford *p*-cyano-phenyl ethanone, with the cyano group untouched (Table 6, **6j**). It should be noted that cleavage of C-halogen bond was not observed during the reaction process (Table 6, **6q–6s**). The substrate scope of various steric hindered *ortho*-functionalized aryl sulfonyl hydrazides were explored, only with slightly decrease of efficiency (Table 6, **6m, 6p, 6s**). When mesitylene sulfonyl hydrazides reacted with acetonitrile, slightly lower yields were obtained probably due to the steric effect of the substituents (Table 6, **6i**). In addition, 2-naphthyl substituted sulfonyl hydrazides was also

tested in the reaction and afforded the desired product 3af in 80% yield (Table 6, 6t).

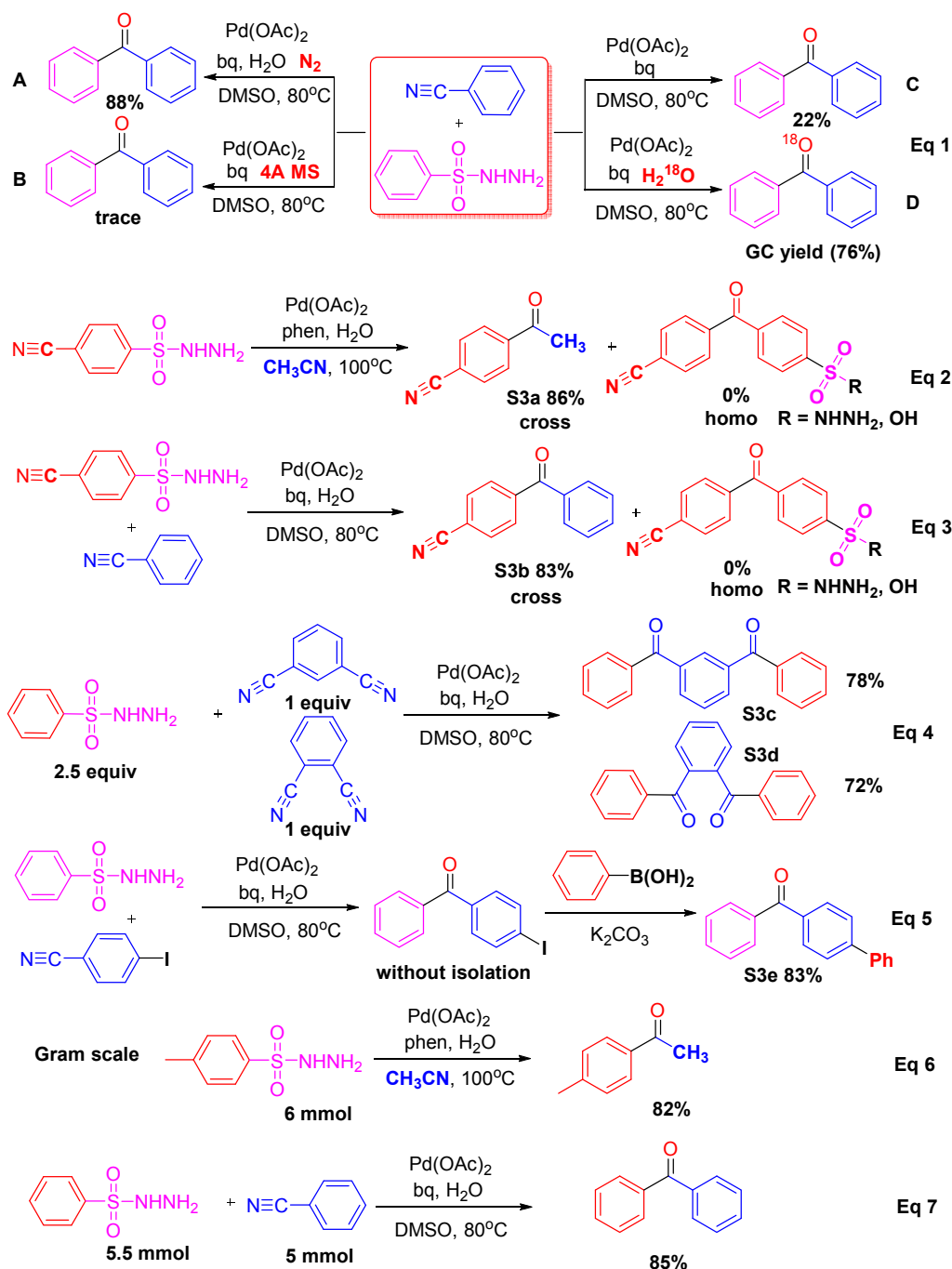
Table 6 Scope of desulfinitive addition of various arylsulfonyl hydrazides with acetonitrile ^a



^a Reaction conditions: phenylsulfonyl hydrazide (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), phen (3 mol%), H₂O (2.0 mmol), CH₃CN (2 mL), 100 °C, 6 h. Isolated yields.

In order to understand the mechanism of the reaction, a series of control experiments were carried out (Scheme 3). When the reaction was carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere, the corresponding benzophenone was obtained in 82% yield (Scheme 3, Eq 1, A), which indicated that the reaction didn't require the presence of oxygen. Only 12% yield of desired product was detected under typical procedure without 2 equiv water (Scheme 3, Eq 1, B). Also, the product

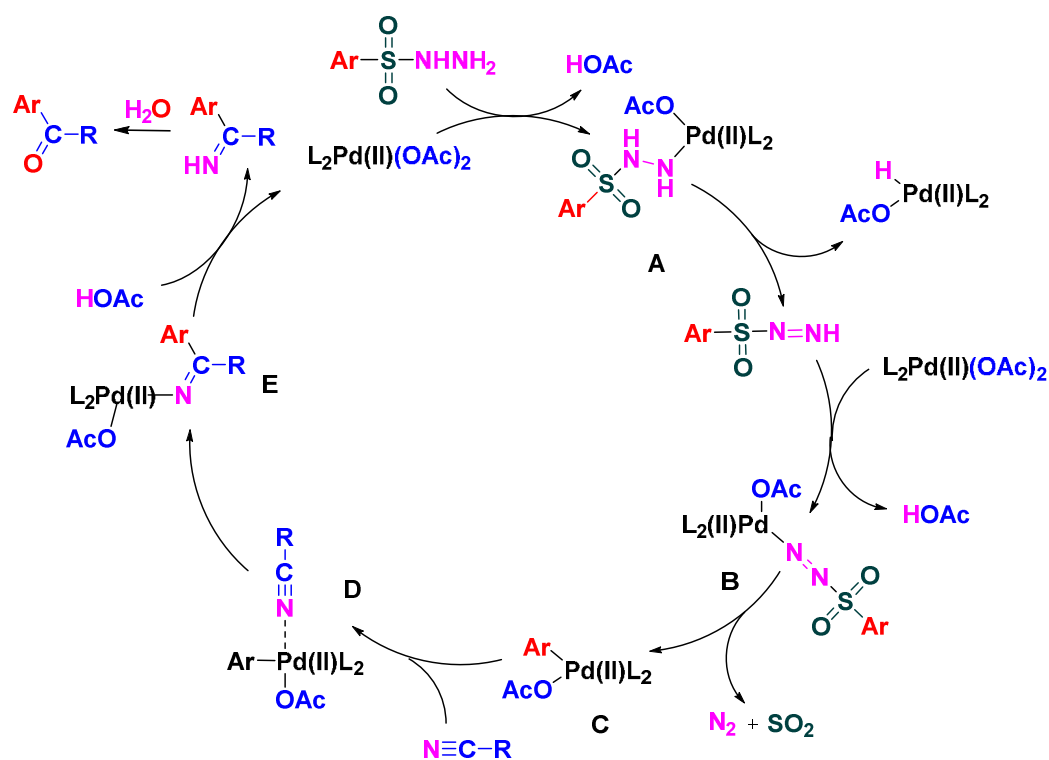
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3 formation was completely suppressed upon the addition of the 4A molecular sieve to the reaction
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5 (Scheme 3, Eq 1, C). The ^{18}O -labeling experiment was also performed to get more insights into
6
7 this reaction process (Scheme 3, Eq 1, D), indicating that the oxygen atom in the ketone molecule
8
9 was derived from H_2O . Furthermore, when 4-cyano phenylsulfonyl hydrazides was reacted with
10
11 benzonitrile or acetonitrile under the optimal conditions, the cross-coupling products
12
13 4-benzoylbenzonitrile and 4-acetylbenzonitrile were isolated, respectively without concomitant
14
15 formation of 4-(4-(sulfonyl)benzoyl)benzonitrile analogue as the product (Scheme 3, Eq 2 and Eq
16
17 3). No homo-coupling products of 4-cyano phenylsulfonyl hydrazides were detected by GC-MS
18
19 further. The phthalonitrile and isophthalonitrile substrates can be elaborated using myriad known
20
21 transformations of excessive phenylsulfonyl hydrazides for the synthesis of diverse dibenzoyl
22
23 motifs (Scheme 3, Eq 4). Another application of the presented desulfinate addition is its
24
25 potential for combination with Pd-catalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling to synthesize
26
27 (4-biphenyl) (phenyl) methanone (Scheme 3, Eq 5). The Pd-catalyzed desulfinate addition of
28
29 4-iodobenzonitrile with phenylsulfonyl hydrazides, followed by consecutive Suzuki
30
31 cross-coupling by the addition of $\text{PhB}(\text{OH})_2$, provides the 4-biphenyl-benzophenone in the yield
32
33 of 83%. This approach has great potential in combination of Pd-catalyzed
34
35 addition/Suzuki-coupling by the sequential addition of reagents. Finally, the desulfinate addition
36
37 of both aryl nitriles and alkyl nitriles were scalable on gram scale, which showed the potential of
38
39 our palladium-catalyzed methods in the industrial application (Scheme 3, Eq 6 and Eq 7).
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Scheme 3 Control experiments and further application

Although the mechanistic details are yet to be ascertained, we propose a plausible catalytic cycle for the palladium-catalyzed addition reaction of arylsulfonyl hydrazides with nitriles via direct desulfinitative and denitrificative coupling in the presence of bq is shown in Scheme 4.

Starting with the ligand coordinated Pd(II)-complex, it is converted to Pd(II) species **A** and HOAc by deprotonation with arylsulfonyl hydrazide. Intermediate **A** undergoes β -hydride elimination to generate (arylsulfonyl)diazene and release HPdOAc at the same time. Subsequent displacement of Pd(OAc)₂ with (arylsulfonyl)diazene providing reactive Pd(II) intermediate **B**, arylpalladium(II) intermediate **C** is formed through successive liberation of N₂ and SO₂ gas. The coordination of the nitrile group with complex **C** to form Pd(II) complex **D**, which is probably a fast process given the excess of nitrile. After 1,2-carbopalladation of the nitrile to form ketimine complex **E**, protonation of the ketimine **E** by the HOAc afforded the free ketimine and a regenerated ligand coordinated Pd(OAc)₂ to complete the catalytic cycle. Finally, the formation of desired ketone product could be achieved via the hydrolysis of the ketimine moiety. Additional water was enough for hydrolysis.



Scheme 4 Possible Mechanism**Conclusion**

We have developed a novel, highly efficient and air-stable method for the construction of aryl ketone derivatives by the palladium catalyzed addition of arylsulfonyl hydrazides with nitriles in good yields with high selectivities under aerobic and aqueous conditions. This denitrogenative & desulfinate reaction proceeds with Pd(OAc)₂/N-ligand catalysis with a broad scope of substrates, and a series of aryl nitriles and alkyl nitriles can be utilized in this reaction. With the reaction, a wide range of diaryl ketones and aryl alkyl ketones are synthesized in good to excellent yields.

Experimental Section**General**

Reagents and solvents were used as it is obtained from commercial vendors. Products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (300–400 mesh) (ethyl acetate / petroleum ether = v/v). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker-400 MHz spectrometers using tetramethylsilane as internal standard in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR are reported as δ values relative to TMS and CDCl₃ respectively. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm, δ). Proton coupling patterns are described as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m), and broad resonances (br). HRMS (EI) data were collected on High Resolution mass spectrometer (ion trap).

General experimental procedure for synthesis of aryl ketones

A mixture of phenylsulfonyl hydrazides (1.1 mmol), nitriles (1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (2 mol%), bq (3 mol%) was stirred in DMSO (2 mL) and H₂O (2 mmol) at 80°C for 6 hours at ambient atmosphere. The reaction mixture was extracted by Et₂O (5 mL) for three times. And then the

organic phase was combined and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified on a silica gel (300-400 mesh) column to afford the desired product (with petroleum and ethyl acetate).

4-Methoxy-benzophenone (3a) White solid (E/P = 1/15), 192.9 mg (91%), m.p. 59–60 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.6, 163.2, 138.3, 132.6, 132.0, 130.1, 129.8, 128.2, 113.6, 55.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂O₂ (M⁺) 212.0837, Found 212.0843.

Benzophenone (3b) White solid (E/P = 1/20), 167.4 mg (92%), m.p. 46–48 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4 H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9, 137.6, 132.4, 130.1, 128.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₁₀O (M⁺) 182.0732, Found 182.0738.

4-Fluorobenzophenone (3c) White solid (E/P = 1/20), 166.1 mg (83%), m.p. 45–46 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.86 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 5.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.3, 165.8 (d, *J* = 252 Hz), 137.5, 133.8 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 132.7 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 132.5, 129.9, 128.4, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₉FO (M⁺) 200.0637, Found 200.0638.

4-Nitrobenzophenone (3d) Light yellow solid (E/P = 1/3), 190.7 mg (84%), m.p. 141–143 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 149.8, 142.9, 136.3, 133.5, 130.7, 130.1, 128.7, 123.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for

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4 $C_{13}H_9NO_3$ (M^+) 227.0582, Found 227.0586.
5

6 **4-Trifluoromethyl-benzophenone (3e)** White solid (E/P = 1/3), 195.1 mg (78%), m.p. 117–118
7
8 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.89 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H),
9
10 7.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100
11
12 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 195.6, 140.7, 136.7, 133.7 (dd, J_1 = 64.6 Hz, J_2 = 32.6 Hz), 133.1, 130.2 (d, J =
13
14 3.8 Hz), 128.5, 125.4 (dd, J_1 = 7.2 Hz, J_2 = 3.6 Hz), 123.7 (d, J = 271.2 Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd
15
16 for $C_{14}H_9F_3O$ (M^+) 250.0605, Found 250.0602.
17
18

19
20 **4-Methylbenzophenone (3f, 4c)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 182.3 mg (93%) for 3f and 184.3 mg
21
22 (94%) for 4c), m.p. 55–56 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.80 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H),
23
24 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.57 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0
25
26 Hz, 2 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 196.5, 143.3, 138.0, 134.9, 132.2, 130.3,
27
28 130.0, 129.0, 128.2, 21.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}O$ (M^+) 196.0888, Found 196.0893.
29
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33 **3-Methyl-benzophenone (3g)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/15), 170.5 mg (87%). 1H NMR (400 MHz,
34
35 $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (s, 1 H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.49 (t, J =
36
37 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.33-7.41 (m, 2 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.1, 138.2,
38
39 137.7, 137.6, 133.3, 132.4, 130.5, 130.1, 128.3, 128.1, 127.4, 21.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}O$
40
41 (M^+) 196.0888, Found 196.0883.
42
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44
45 **2-Methylbenzophenone (3h)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/20), 158.8 mg (81%). 1H NMR (400 MHz,
46
47 $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H),
48
49 7.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.34 (m, 3 H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ
50
51 198.7, 138.6, 137.7, 136.8, 133.1, 131.0, 130.2, 130.1, 128.52, 128.47, 125.2, 20.0. HRMS (EI)
52
53 Calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}O$ (M^+) 196.0888, Found 196.0882.
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4 **4-Chloro-benzophenone (3i, 4d)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 183.7 mg (85%) for 3i and 190.1 mg
5
6 (88%) for 4d, m.p. 75–76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4 H),
7
8 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100
9
10 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.6, 138.9, 137.2, 135.8, 132.7, 131.5, 130.0, 128.7, 128.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd
11
12 for C₁₃H₉ClO (M⁺) 216.0342, Found 216.0347.

13
14
15 **3-Chloro-benzophenone (3j)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 185.8 mg (86%), m.p. 83–85 °C. ¹H NMR
16
17 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.78 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H),
18
19 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz,
20
21 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.3, 139.2, 136.9, 134.6, 132.9, 132.4, 130.1, 129.9,
22
23 129.7, 128.5, 128.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₉ClO (M⁺) 216.0342, Found 216.0335.

24
25
26 **2-Chlorobenzophenone (3k)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 177.1 mg (82%), m.p. 43–45 °C. ¹H NMR
27
28 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.41-7.49 (m, 4
29
30 H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.3, 138.6, 136.5, 133.7, 131.3, 131.2,
31
32 130.1, 129.1, 128.6, 126.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₉ClO (M⁺) 216.0342, Found 216.0340.

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34
35 **2,3,4,5,6-Pentamethyl-benzophenone (3l)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 184.0 mg (73%), m.p. 136–
36
37 137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1
38
39 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 2.21 (s, 6 H), 2.02 (s, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,
40
41 CDCl₃) δ 202.0, 137.7, 135.6, 133.4, 132.9, 129.6, 129.0, 128.7, 17.6, 16.8, 16.0. HRMS (EI)
42
43 Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O (M⁺) 252.1514, Found 252.1516.

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46 **4-Bromobenzophenone (3m)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 231.4 mg (89%), m.p. 80–82 °C. ¹H
47
48 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.58-7.69 (m, 5 H), 7.49 (t, *J* =
49
50 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.7, 137.1, 136.3, 132.7, 131.63, 131.61, 130.0,
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4 128.5, 127.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₉BrO (M⁺) 259.9837, Found 259.9832.

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6 **2-Benzoylthiophene (3n)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 144.8 mg (77%), m.p. 53–54 °C. ¹H NMR
7
8 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.64 (d, *J* =
9
10 3.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C
11
12 NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.2, 143.6, 138.2, 134.9, 134.2, 132.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.0. HRMS
13
14 (EI) Calcd for C₁₁H₈OS (M⁺) 188.0296, Found 188.0299.

15
16
17
18 **3-Benzoylpyridine (3o)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 152.7 mg (83%), m.p. 40–42 °C. ¹H NMR (400
19
20 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.99 (s, 1 H), 8.81 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.82
21
22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.44–7.54 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,
23
24 CDCl₃) δ 195.0, 152.8, 150.9, 137.2, 136.6, 133.2, 133.1, 130.0, 128.6, 123.4. HRMS m/z (ESI)
25
26 calcd for C₁₂H₁₀NO [M+H]⁺ 184.0757, found 184.0750.

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28
29
30 **4-Benzyloxy-benzophenone (4a)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 244.8 mg (85%), m.p. 83–85 °C. ¹H
31
32 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (t, *J*
33
34 = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.32–7.48 (m, 7 H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 5.14 (s, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100
35
36 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.5, 162.4, 138.3, 136.2, 132.6, 131.9, 130.4, 129.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5,
37
38 114.4, 70.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆O₂ (M⁺) 288.1150, Found 288.1143.

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42 **4-(Dimethylamino)benzophenone (4b)** White solid (E/P = 1/5), 196.6 mg (87%), m.p. 92–94 °C.
43
44 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.52
45
46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.06 (s, 6 H). ¹³C
47
48 NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.2, 153.3, 139.3, 132.8, 131.2, 129.5, 128.0, 124.7, 110.5, 40.1.
49
50 HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₆NO [M+H]⁺ 226.1226, found 226.1223.

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55 **3-Nitrobenzophenone (4c)** Light yellow solid (E/P = 1/5), 186.2 mg (82%), m.p. 96–97 °C. ¹H

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4 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.62 (s, 1 H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz,
5
6 1 H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (t, J =
7
8 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.2, 148.1, 139.0, 136.3, 135.5, 133.4, 130.0,
9
10 129.7, 128.8, 126.7, 124.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₉NO₃ (M⁺) 227.0582, Found 227.0586.

11
12
13 **3,4-Dimethylbenzophenone (4f)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 188.9 mg (90%), m.p. 47–48 °C. ¹H
14
15 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.64 (s, 1 H), 7.53–7.61 (m, 2 H),
16
17 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.24 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100
18
19 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7, 142.0, 138.1, 136.8, 135.3, 132.1, 131.2, 130.0, 129.5, 128.2, 128.1, 20.0,
20
21 19.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O (M⁺) 210.1045, Found 210.1040.

22
23
24 **3,4-Dichlorobenzophenone (4g)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 207.5 mg (83%), m.p. 103–104 °C. ¹H
25
26 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.90 (s, 1 H), 7.77 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.64 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2
27
28 H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.2,
29
30 137.2, 137.0, 136.7, 133.0, 131.8, 130.5, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₃H₈Cl₂O
31
32 (M⁺) 249.9952, Found 249.9956.

33
34
35 **3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzophenone (4h)** White solid (E/P = 1/10), 241.7 mg (76%), m.p.
36
37 108–110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.24 (s, 2 H), 8.10 (s, 1 H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.6
38
39 Hz, 2 H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ
40
41 193.6, 139.4, 135.9, 133.6, 132.0 (dd, J_1 = 67.2 Hz, J_2 = 33.6 Hz), 130.0, 129.8 (d, J = 2.1 Hz),
42
43 128.9 125.6 (t, J = 3.9 Hz), 124.3, 121.5 (q, J = 271 Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₅H₈F₆O (M⁺)
44
45 318.0479, Found 318.0481.

46
47
48 **4-Iodobenzophenone (4i)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 280.3 mg (91%), m.p. 101–103 °C. ¹H NMR
49
50 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.77 (d, J_1 = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.60 (t, J =
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7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.9, 137.6, 137.1, 136.9, 132.7, 131.5, 130.0, 128.4, 100.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{IO}$ (M^+) 307.9698, Found 307.9692.

1-Naphthyl-benzophenone (4j) White solid (E/P = 1/15), 186.5 mg (80%), m.p. 76–78 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.42-7.61 (m, 7 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 138.3, 136.3, 133.7, 133.3, 131.3, 131.0, 130.5, 128.48, 128.45, 127.8, 127.3, 126.5, 125.7, 124.4. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ 233.0961, found 233.0961.

2-Benzoylpyridine (4k) White solid (E/P = 1/15), 131.8 mg (72%), m.p. 42–43 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.72 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 8.02-8.08 (m, 3 H), 7.89 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.1, 155.1, 148.6, 137.1, 136.3, 133.0, 131.0, 128.2, 126.2, 124.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{NO}$ (M^+) 183.0684, Found 183.0683.

2,6-Difluorobenzophenone (4l) White solid (E/P = 1/10), 167.9 mg (77%), m.p. 134–136 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (dt, J_1 = 7.2 Hz, J_2 = 2.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.05 (tt, J_1 = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 2.4 Hz, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.9, 162.6 (dd, J_1 = 250 Hz, J_2 = 11.6 Hz), 140.6 (t, J = 7.2 Hz), 136.4, 133.2, 130.0, 128.6, 112.9 (dd, J_1 = 18.3 Hz, J_2 = 7.4 Hz), 107.7 (t, J = 25.1 Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{F}_2\text{O}$ (M^+) 218.0543, Found 218.0549.

2,5-Difluorobenzophenone (4m) White solid (E/P = 1/10), 187.5 mg (86%), m.p. 99–100 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.19-7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

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4 192.1, 159.7, 157.2 (d, $J = 252$ Hz), 136.8, 133.8, 129.8, 128.6, 128.1 (dd, $J_1 = 17.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.4$
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6 Hz), 119.7 (dd, $J_1 = 23.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.6$ Hz), 117.8 (dd, $J_1 = 24.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz), 117.0 (dd, $J_1 =$
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8 18.4 Hz, $J_2 = 7.2$ Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{13}H_8F_2O$ (M^+) 218.0543, Found 218.0548.

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10 **3,4,5-Trifluorobenzophenone (4n)** White solid (E/P = 1/10), 191.2 mg (81%), m.p. 121–123 °C.
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12 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.78 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.54
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14 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 192.9, 152.2 (dd,
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16 $J_1 = 41.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 12$ Hz), 149.7 (dd, $J_1 = 40.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 14$ Hz), 144.0 (t, $J = 62.4$ Hz), 141.4 (t,
17
18 $J = 61.6$ Hz), 136.2, 133.1, 129.8, 128.6, 114.6 (dd, $J_1 = 64$ Hz, $J_2 = 24.8$ Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd
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20 for $C_{13}H_7F_3O$ (M^+) 236.0449, Found 236.0438.

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22 **2,3,4,5,6-Perfluoro-benzophenone (4o)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 190.4 mg (70%), m.p. 36–37
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24 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.69 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H),
25
26 7.54 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 185.2, 135.9, 135.1, 129.7, 129.1.
27
28 HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{13}H_5F_5O$ (M^+) 272.0261, Found 272.0265.

29
30 **1,2-Diphenylethanone (T5-1)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 177.3 mg (90%), m.p. 55–57 °C. 1H
31
32 NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 8.01 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, J
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34 = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.22–7.34 (m, 5 H), 4.28 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.6, 136.6,
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36 134.6, 133.2, 129.5, 128.70, 128.67, 128.64, 126.9, 45.5. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}O$
37
38 $[M+H]^+$ 197.0961, found 197.0962.

39
40 **Benzoylacetone (T5-2)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 141.8 mg (87%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$,
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42 TMS) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 6.17 (s,
43
44 2 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 193.8, 183.3, 134.9, 132.3, 128.8, 128.6,
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46 127.0, 96.7, 25.8. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $C_{10}H_{11}O_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 163.0754, found 163.0749.
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Propiophenone (T5-3) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/50), 101.2 mg (75%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.93 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.6, 136.9, 132.8, 128.5, 127.9, 31.7, 8.2. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 135.0804, found 135.0802.

Pentanophenone (T5-4) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/50), 133.7 mg (82%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.67-1.75 (m, 2 H), 1.37-1.43 (m, 2 H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.5, 137.1, 132.8, 128.5, 128.0, 38.3, 26.5, 22.5, 13.9. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 163.1117, found 163.1109.

Isobutyrophenone (T5-5) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/50), 117.7 mg (79%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.55 (m, 1 H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 204.4, 136.2, 132.8, 128.6, 128.3, 35.3, 19.1. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 149.0961, found 149.0957.

Cyclopentyl(phenyl)methanone (T5-6) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/50), 145.3 mg (83%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.97 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.66-3.75 (m, 1 H), 1.86-1.94 (m, 4 H), 1.60-1.77 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.8, 136.9, 132.7, 128.5, 128.4, 46.3, 30.0, 26.3. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 175.1117, found 175.1109.

4'-Ethoxyacetophenone (6a) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 152.5 mg (93%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.94 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.5, 162.8, 130.4, 130.0, 114.0, 63.6, 26.1, 14.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 164.0837, Found 164.0833.

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4 **4'-Methoxyacetophenone (6b)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 135.0 mg (90%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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6 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.86 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 2.48 (s, 3
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8 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.7, 163.4, 130.5, 130.2, 113.6, 55.4, 26.3. HRMS (EI)
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10 Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 150.0681, Found 150.0689.

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13 **3'-Methoxyacetophenone (6c)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 138.1 mg (92%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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15 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.38 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (s, 1 H), 7.21 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.96 (d, J =
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17 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.68 (s, 3 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 159.7, 138.3,
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19 129.5, 120.9, 119.3, 112.3, 55.2, 26.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 150.0681, Found
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21 150.0677.
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25 **4'-Dimethylaminoacetophenone (6d)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/20), 138.6 mg (85%). ^1H NMR (400
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27 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.86 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.03 (s, 6 H), 2.50
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29 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.4, 153.4, 130.5, 125.3, 110.6, 40.0, 26.0. HRMS
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31 (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 163.0997, Found 163.0991.
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35 **4'-Methylthioacetophenone (6e)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 144.4 mg (87%). ^1H NMR (400
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37 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.52 (s, 3 H), 2.47
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39 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.1, 145.9, 133.4, 128.7, 124.9, 26.4, 14.7. HRMS
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41 (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{OS}$ (M^+) 166.0452, Found 166.0460.
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45 **4'-Methylacetophenone (6f)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 128.6 mg (96%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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47 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.76 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3
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49 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 143.7, 134.6, 129.2, 128.4, 26.4, 21.5. HRMS (EI)
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51 Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$ (M^+) 134.0732, Found 134.0728.
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55 **3'-Methylacetophenone (6g)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 152.5 mg (93%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.76 (s, 1 H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.57 (s, 3 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.3, 138.3, 137.1, 133.9, 128.8, 128.4, 125.6, 26.7, 21.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₉H₁₀O (M⁺) 134.0732, Found 134.0739.

3', 5'-Dimethylacetophenone (6h) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 130.2 mg (93%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.55 (s, 2 H), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H), 2.34 (s, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.5, 138.1, 137.2, 134.7, 126.2, 26.7, 21.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O (M⁺) 148.0888, Found 148.0895.

2', 4', 6'-Trimethylacetophenone (6i) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 128.0 mg (79%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 6.82 (s, 2 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 2.27 (s, 3 H), 2.21 (s, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.1, 140.0, 138.1, 132.2, 128.5, 32.1, 21.0, 19.0. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄O (M⁺) 162.1045, Found 162.1052.

3'-Cyanoacetophenone (6j) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 124.7 mg (86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.21 (s, 1 H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.82 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.61 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.62 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9, 137.7, 136.0, 132.3, 132.0, 129.7, 117.9, 113.1, 26.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₉H₇NO (M⁺) 145.0528, Found 145.0522.

4'-Fluoroacetophenone (6k) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 117.3 mg (85%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 165.5 (d, J = 251.8 Hz), 133.5 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 130.8 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 115.4 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 26.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₈H₇FO (M⁺) 138.0481, Found 138.0486.

3'-Fluoroacetophenone (6l) Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 124.2 mg (90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.37-7.43 (m, 1 H),

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4 7.18-7.24 (m, 1 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.7 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 162.8
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6 (d, $J = 246.0$ Hz), 139.1 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 130.2 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 124.1 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 120.0 (d, $J =$
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8 21.4 Hz), 114.8 (d, $J = 22.2$ Hz), 26.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{FO}$ (M^+) 138.0481, Found
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10 138.0489.

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13 **2'-Fluoroacetophenone (6m)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 111.8 mg (81%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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15 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.79 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.79 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H),
16
17 7.05 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.6 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz),
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19 162.1 (d, $J = 252.6$ Hz), 134.6 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 130.5 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 125.6 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 124.3
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21 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz), 116.6 (d, $J = 23.7$ Hz), 31.2 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz). HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{FO}$ (M^+)
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23 138.0481, Found 138.0474.

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28 **4'-Nitroacetophenone (6n)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/15), 135.3 mg (82%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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30 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.24 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 2.65 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR
31
32 (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.4, 150.3, 141.4, 129.3, 123.8, 26.9. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$
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34 (M^+) 165.0426, Found 165.0421.

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38 **3'-Nitroacetophenone (6o)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/15), 137.0 mg (83%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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40 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.69 (s, 1 H), 8.35 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 8.26 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.67 (t, $J =$
41
42 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.7, 148.3, 138.2, 133.9, 130.0,
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44 127.3, 123.1, 26.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$ (M^+) 165.0426, Found 165.0429.

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48 **2'-Nitroacetophenone (6p)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/15), 122.1 mg (74%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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50 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H),
51
52 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.9, 145.8, 137.5,
53
54 134.3, 130.8, 127.4, 124.2, 29.9. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$ (M^+) 165.0426, Found 165.0420.
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4 **4'-Bromoacetophenone (6q)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 170.3 mg (86%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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6 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.69 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR
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8 (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 135.7, 131.8, 129.8, 128.1, 26.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{BrO}$
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10 (M^+) 197.9680, Found 197.9687.

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13 **3'-Bromoacetophenone (6r)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 174.2 mg (88%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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15 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.83 (s, 1 H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.12 (t, J =
16
17 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.1, 138.6, 135.7, 131.0, 130.1,
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19 126.8, 122.7, 26.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{BrO}$ (M^+) 197.9680, Found 197.9681.

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23 **2'-Bromoacetophenone (6s)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 162.5 mg (82%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
24
25 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H),
26
27 7.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.57 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 201.2, 141.3, 133.8,
28
29 131.8, 128.9, 127.5, 118.8, 30.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{BrO}$ (M^+) 197.9680, Found 197.9675.

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33 **2-Acetylnaphthalene (6t)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 137.7mg (81%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz,
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35 CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.33 (s, 1 H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.75 (d, J =
36
37 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.51 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.46 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.61 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR
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39 (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.9, 135.5, 134.4, 132.4, 130.2, 129.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 126.7, 123.8,
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41 26.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$ (M^+) 170.0732, Found 170.0741.

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45 **(55) 4'-Cyanoacetophenone (S3a)** Colorless oil (E/P = 1/30), 124.7 mg (86%). ^1H NMR (400
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47 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ 8.02 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.62 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C
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49 NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.6, 139.9, 132.5, 128.7, 117.9, 116.3, 26.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for
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51 $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{NO}$ (M^+) 145.0528, Found 145.0522.

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54
55 **4-Cyanobenzophenone (S3b)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 171.8 mg (83%), m.p. 115–117 °C. ^1H

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4 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.88 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.77-7.80 (m, 4 H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6
5
6 Hz, 1 H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.0, 141.2, 136.3, 133.3,
7
8 132.2, 130.3, 130.1, 128.7, 118.0, 115.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₉NO (M⁺) 207.0684, Found
9
10 207.0689.

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12
13 **Phthalonitrile (S3c)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 223.1 mg (78%), m.p. 100–101 °C. ¹H NMR (400
14
15 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 8.20 (s, 1 H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.62
16
17 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.0 Hz, 3 H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9,
18
19 137.8, 137.0, 133.6, 132.9, 131.3, 130.1, 128.6, 128.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₂₀H₁₄O₂ (M⁺)
20
21 286.0994, Found 286.0985.

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24 **Isophthalonitrile (S3d)** White solid (E/P = 1/15), 205.9 mg (72%), m.p. 159–161 °C. ¹H NMR
25
26 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.71 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4 H), 7.63 (s, 4 H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H),
27
28 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.6, 140.0, 137.2, 133.1, 130.4,
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30 129.9, 129.7, 128.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₂₀H₁₄O₂ (M⁺) 286.0994, Found 286.0999.

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33 **(59) 4-biphenyl-benzophenone (S3e)** White solid (E/P = 1/20), 214.2 mg (83%), m.p. 101–103
34
35 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H),
36
37 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.47 (dd, J_1 =
38
39 15.2 Hz, J_2 = 7.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4,
40
41 145.2, 140.0, 137.8, 136.2, 132.4, 130.8, 130.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.0. HRMS (EI)
42
43 Calcd for C₁₉H₁₄O (M⁺) 258.1045, Found 258.1042.

44 45 46 47 48 49 50 **Acknowledgements**

51
52 This work was Supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21402123),
53
54 the Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China (No. LY18B020006 and No.
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LQ14B020001) and the Science Technology Project of Shaoxing City (No. 2017B70053)

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website.

Copies of ¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR Spectrum (PDF)

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