# *o*-Aminothiophenol in Reactions with Carbonyl Compounds and Isocyanides: A Word of Caution

Sergey Tsirulnikov,[a,b] Dmitry Dmitriev,[b] Mikhail Krasavin*[a,b]

[a] Science and Education Center 'Innovative Research', Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, 150000 Yaroslavl, Russian Federation

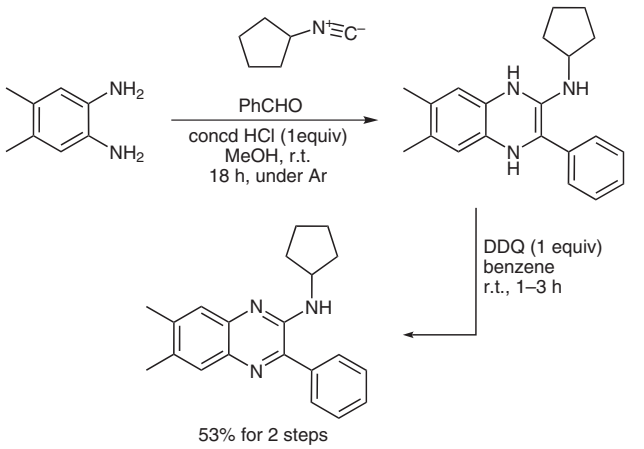
[b] Chemical Diversity Research Institute, 2a Rabochaya St., Khimki, 141400 Moscow Region, Russian Federation
Fax +7(495)6269780; E-mail: myk@chemdiv.com

*Received 26 April 2010*

**Abstract:** The reaction of *o*-aminothiophenol with carbonyl compounds and *t*-BuNC was revisited and shown to provide 1-[1,3-benzothiazol-3(2*H*)-yl]methanimines (not described hitherto) and not the earlier reported 4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine. To isolate the latter using this reaction a due amount of caution and structure scrutiny is warranted. The basis for assignment of the products to both structural classes is provided.

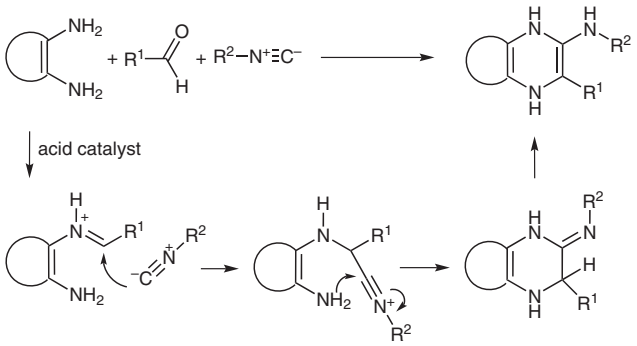
**Key words:** isocyanide-based multicomponent reactions, bifunctional reagents, isocyanide-intercepting nuceophiles, thiophenol, amidines

Recently, we reported[1] on a new variant of an isocyanide-based multicomponent reaction (IMCR) of *o*-phenylenediamines with aldehydes and isocyanides leading to easily oxidized dihydroquinoxalines and, ultimately, providing a conceptually new route to quinoxalines (Scheme 1).



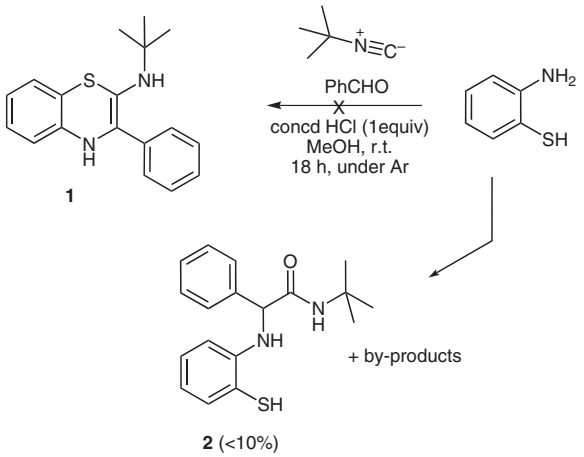

**Scheme 1** IMCR of an *o*-phenylenediamine[1]

This methodology has been recently extended by Kysil et al.[2] to include cyclic ketone components as well as [1,2,5]oxadiazole-3,4-diamine under reaction conditions including TMSCl as the promoter. In addition, similar reactions involving 1,2-diamines have also been published.[3,4] In all of these transformations, the diamines act as bifunctional reagents providing both the amine component to form the Schiff base adduct with the carbonyl compound and an isocyanide-intercepting N-nucleophile (Scheme 2).




**Scheme 2** Plausible mechanism for IMCR of 1,2-diamines

We also tested *o*-aminothiophenol under the reaction conditions depicted in Scheme 1, aiming to verify if the respective 3-aryl-4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine-2-amine **1** would form. However, this attempt only resulted in a complex mixture of products, one of which could be identified as **2**, that is, the products of Ugi reaction involving water[5] as isocyanide-intercepting nucleophile (Scheme 3).

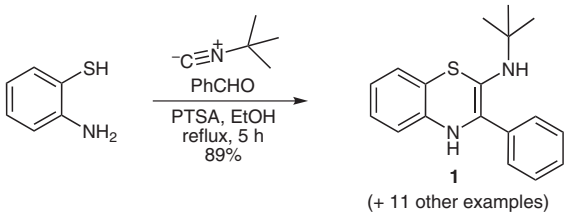



**Scheme 3** Attempted IMCR of *o*-aminothiophenol

Our interest to the reaction of *o*-aminothiophenol has been refueled by a publication[6] reporting on a facile and high-yielding preparation of compounds related to **1**. According to this article, compound **1** was formed in 89% isolated yield (along with 11 other examples) upon mixing all

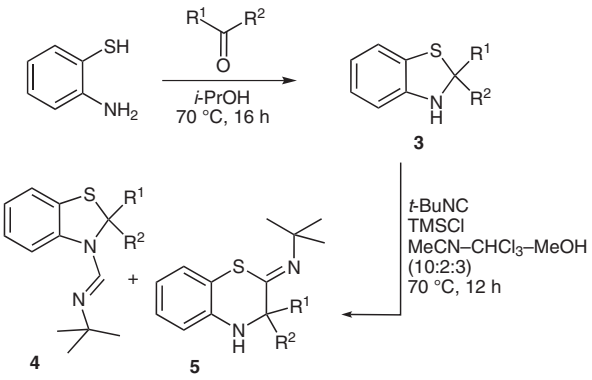
*SYNLETT* 2010, No. 13, pp 1935–1938
Advanced online publication: 16.07.2010
DOI: 10.1055/s-0030-1258500; Art ID: D10710ST

three components in ethanol and heating the solution at reflux for five hours in presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (Scheme 4). Although in our hands, the outcome of this reaction was similar to the one presented in Scheme 3, we decided to test it under TMSCl-promoted conditions.[2]




**Scheme 4** Reported preparation of 3-aryl-4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine-2-amine **1**[6]

Simple mixing of *o*-aminothiophenol an aromatic aldehyde and *t*-BuNC with TMSCl (1.0 equiv) in methanol and heating the reaction mixture at reflux for 12 hours again provided a complex mixture of products. This was entirely in accordance with the earlier observations made for 1,2-diamines[2] that preformation of an aminal adduct with the carbonyl compound is critical for a successful IMCR. Therefore, in all our subsequent experiments we used 2,3-dihydro-1,3-benzothiazoles **3** (as confirmed by NMR experiments) prepared by reacting equimolar amounts of *o*-aminothiophenol with aldehydes or ketones, without further purification.




**Scheme 5** IMCR of *o*-aminothiophenol investigated in this work

Ten 2,3-dihydro-1,3-benzothiazoles **3a–j** were prepared and reacted with *t*-BuNC in the presence of TMSCl (1.0 equiv). Contrary to the expectations, in all cases the major component of the product mixture (according to $^1$H NMR analysis of the crude product) was 1-[1,3-benzothiazol-3(2*H*)-yl]methanimine **4** and not the 4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine **5** (Scheme 5). In fact, in all reactions except those with **3a**, **3b**, and **3e**, the latter product was detected in negligible amount that did not warrant isolation. Accordingly, the products **4a–j** and **5a**,**b**,**e** were isolated in low to moderate yields (Table 1) by column chromatography and characterized.[7]

**Table 1** Compounds **4** and **5** Prepared via IMCR of *o*-Aminothiophenol

| Entry | Compd | $R^1$ | $R^2$ | Yield of **4** (%) | Yield of **5** (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **3–5a** | -$(CH_2)_5$- | | 66 | 12 |
| 2 | **3–5b** | -$(CH_2)_4$- | | 45 | 38 |
| 3 | **3–5c** | -$(CH_2)_2O(CH_2)_2$- | | 54 | – |
| 4 | **3–5d** | -$(CH_2)_2N(Ac)(CH_2)_2$- | | 43 | – |
| 5 | **3–5e** | -$(CH_2)_2CH(t\text{-Bu})(CH_2)_2$- | | 62 | 5 |
| 6 | **3–5f** | 4-$MeOC_6H_4$ | H | 70 | – |
| 7 | **3–5g** | 4-*i*-$PrC_6H_4$ | H | 59 | – |
| 8 | **3–5h** | 2-$MeC_6H_4$ | H | 48 | – |
| 9 | **3–5i** | 3-$NCC_6H_4$ | H | 63 | – |
| 10 | **3–5j** | 3,4-$Me_2C_6H_3$ | H | 64 | – |

The products **4** and **5** are isomers that can be distinguished by characteristic signals in their $^1$H NMR spectra corresponding to the amidine C–H proton and the thiazine N–H proton, respectively (Figure 1). Such structural assignment was further confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis[8] obtained for **4f** and **5a** (Figure 2).

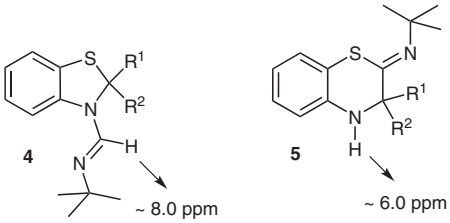



**Figure 1** Characteristic signals in the $^1$H NMR spectra of **4** and **5**

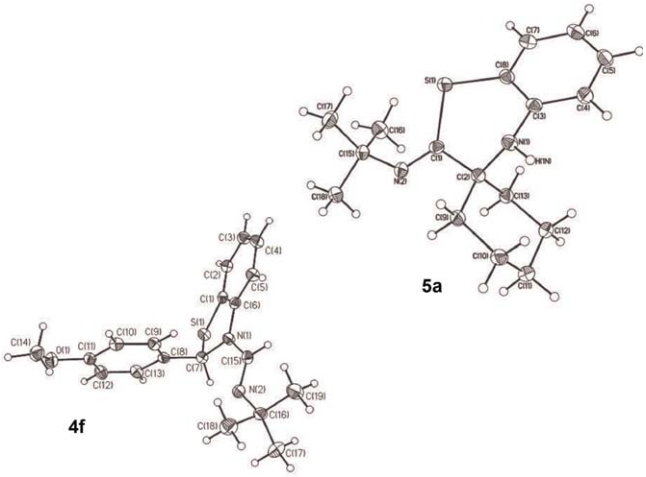



**Figure 2** X-ray structures of **4f** and **5a**

The unexpected formation of 1-[1,3-benzothiazol-3(2*H*)-yl]methanimines **4** was likely due to the ability of isocya-

nides to form amidines via a direct, Lewis acid catalyzed reaction with amines (in this case, the secondary aniline **3**). This is a less studied yet not unprecedented[9] reactivity of isocynides.

Using 2,3-dihydro-1,3-benzothiazole **3b**, for which the formation of the respective 4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine **5b** was most pronounced, we screened a small set of Lewis and Brønsted acids (in catalytic to equimolar quantities, in compatible solvents) while monitoring the ratio of the characteristic signals corresponding to the products **4b** and **5b** in the $^1$H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture. As can be seen from Table 2, despite the initial promise of improvement (entries 1 and 7) or even reversal (entries 2 and 6) of the **4b/5b** ratio from the $^1$H NMR data, the isolated yields of **5b** were still highest when TMSCl was used as a promoter (and optimal in MeOH–$CHCl_3$ solvent system), due to noticeable formation of unidentified polymeric byproducts in all other cases.

**Table 2** Acid-Promoter Screening for the Reaction of **3b** with *t*-BuNC

| Entry | Acid promoter | Ratio **4b/5b** by crude $^1$H NMR | Isolated yield of **5b** (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | TsOH (1.0 equiv), MeCN | 2:3 | <10 |
| 2 | $Yb(OTf)_3$ (0.2 equiv), MeCN | 1:3 | 12 |
| 3 | HCl (1.0 equiv), dioxane (3 M) | 9:1 | not isolated |
| 4 | TMSCl (1.0 equiv), MeCN | 3:1 | 29 |
| 5[a] | TMSCl (1.0 equiv), MeCN–MeOH–$CHCl_3$ (10:3:2) | 3:2 | 41 |
| 6 | $Sc(OTf)_3$ (0.2 equiv), MeCN | 1:3 | 15 |
| 7 | TsOH (0.3 equiv), EtOH | 1:1 | <10 |

[a] Re-run of entry 2, Table 1.

Extending the time of TMSCl activation of **3** prior to *t*-BuNC addition to 40 minutes did not change the ratio of **4/5** for entries 2–4 and 6–10 (Table 1). However, it slightly improved for entry 1 (from 4:1 to 7:3) and entry 5 (from 9:1 to 4:1) and the corresponding 4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazines **5a** and **5e** were isolated in 26% and 14% yield, respectively.

In conclusion, we have revisited the reaction of *o*-aminothiophenol with carbonyl compounds and *t*-BuNC and established that, under Lewis and Brønsted acid catalysis (especially, TMSCl), the major product is the previously unreported 1-[1,3-benzothiazol-3(2*H*)-yl]methanimine **4** and not the earlier reported 4*H*-benzo[1,4]thiazine **5**. To isolate the latter using this reaction, a due amount of caution and structure scrutiny is warranted.

**Typical Procedure 1: Synthesis of 4**

A thoroughly degassed solution of *o*-aminothiophenol (3 mmol) and the carbonyl compound (3 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (3 mL) was heated at 70 °C for 16 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was re-dissolved in anhyd MeCN (10 mL). A solution of TMSCl (3 mmol) in $CHCl_3$ (2 mL) was added followed by a solution of *t*-BuNC in MeOH (3 mL). The resulting mixture was heated at 70 °C for 12 h, cooled to r.t., evaporated to dryness, and the residue was dispersed in $H_2O$ (20 mL). The resulting suspension was basified with aq NaOH and extracted with $CHCl_3$ (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhyd $Na_2SO_4$, filtered, and concentrated. The crude products was purified by column chromatography on basic alumina using 0% → 2.5% MeOH in $CH_2Cl_2$ as eluent.

**Typical Procedure 2: Synthesis of 5**

To prepare these compounds, the same procedure was used but the time prior to the addition of *t*-BuNC was extended to 40 min. A similar chromatographic isolation procedure was used, however, these products generally had higher $R_f$ values than **4**.

## Acknowledgment

This research was supported by the Federal Agency for Science and Innovation (Russian Federation Government Contract 02.740.11.0092). Dr. Alexander Manaev of Chemical Diversity Research Institute is acknowledged for his help in obtaining X-ray structures.

## References and Notes

(1) Krasavin, M.; Parchinsky, V. *Synlett* **2008**, 645.
(2) Kysil, V.; Khvat, A.; Tsirulnikov, S.; Tkachenko, S.; Williams, C.; Churakova, M.; Ivachtchenko, A. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 1525.
(3) Shaabani, A.; Maleki, A.; Moghimi-Rad, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, *72*, 6309.
(4) Heravi, M. M.; Baghernejad, B.; Oskooie, H. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 767.
(5) Ugi, I.; Steinbrückner, C. *Chem. Ber.* **1961**, *94*, 734.
(6) Heravi, M. M.; Baghernejad, B.; Oskooie, H. A. *Synlett* **2009**, 1123.
(7) **Characterization Data for Selected Compounds**
Compound **5a**: emerald green solid, mp 172 °C (decomp.). $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 6.95–7.07 (m, 3 H), 6.71 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.78 (s, 1 H), 1.63–1.78 (m, 2 H), 1.42–1.56 (m, 7 H), 1.33 (s, 9 H), 1.12–1.27 (m, 1 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 156.2, 140.9, 126.2, 125.0, 118.9, 118.8, 117.2, 57.3, 55.3, 33.0, 28.6, 25.4, 21.0. LC-MS: *m/z* = 289 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{24}N_2S$: C, 70.79; H, 8.39; N, 9.71. Found: C, 70.72; H, 8.48; N, 9.83.
Compound **5b**: brown solid, mp 169–172 °C(br). $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.05 (s, 1 H), 2.01–2.14 (m, 2 H), 1.43–1.73 (m, 6 H), 1.33 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 156.0, 142.7, 126.3, 125.3, 118.8, 116.8, 67.7, 55.0, 36.4, 28.7, 23.6. LC-MS: *m/z* = 275 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{16}H_{22}N_2S$: C, 70.03; H, 8.08; N, 10.21. Found: C, 69.89; H, 8.01; N, 10.13.
Compound **5e**: brown solid, mp 186 °C (decomp.). Single diastereomer! $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.77 (s, 1 H), 2.07 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.54 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (s, 9 H), 1.15–1.25 (m, 2 H), 1.00 (m, 1 H), 0.82 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz,

DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 152.6, 141.5, 126.0, 124.6, 118.3, 117.6, 116.5, 56.5, 55.5, 46.9, 35.5, 32.1, 28.7, 27.3, 23.1. LC-MS: *m/z* = 345 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{32}N_2S$: C, 73.20; H, 9.36; N, 8.13. Found: C, 73.29; H, 9.49; N, 8.23.

Compound **4b**: brown oil. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 7.98 (s, 1 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.82 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.76–2.92 (m, 2 H), 1.76–2.02 (m, 4 H), 1.58–1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.20 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 141.8, 141.4, 125.2, 125.0, 121.7, 121.4, 111.4, 85.2, 54.6, 30.6, 23.6. LC-MS: *m/z* = 275 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{16}H_{22}N_2S$: C, 70.03; H, 8.08; N, 10.21. Found: C, 70.12; H, 8.13; N, 10.30.

Compound **4c**: dark yellow solid, mp 182–184 °C. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 8.01 (s, 1 H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.95 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 4.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.45 (t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.05 (td, *J* = 12.6, 4.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.88 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.20 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 142.4, 141.7, 125.2, 124.4, 121.8, 121.6, 112.7, 80.2, 65.3, 54.7, 37.5, 30.5. LC-MS: *m/z* = 291 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{16}H_{22}N_2OS$: C, 66.17; H, 7.64; N, 9.65. Found: C, 66.22; H, 7.70; N, 9.71.

Compound **4e**: pale yellow solid, mp 181–183 °C. Single diastereomer! $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 7.98 (s, 1 H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.96 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.81 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.52–2.60 (m, 2 H), 2.03 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.17–1.30 (m, 11 H), 0.87 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 143.0, 141.7, 124.8, 121.6, 121.2, 113.8, 82.7, 54.6, 45.4, 37.5, 32.0, 30.6, 27.4, 24.8. LC-MS: *m/z* = 345 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{32}N_2S$: C, 73.20; H, 9.36; N, 8.13. Found: C, 73.17; H, 9.34; N, 8.02.

Compound **4f**: beige solid, mp 201 °C (decomp.). $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.93 (s, 1 H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 1.12 (s, 9 H). $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$): δ = 158.8, 143.6, 140.4, 134.6, 127.4, 127.0, 125.6, 122.8, 122.4, 113.6, 111.2, 65.8, 55.2, 54.1, 30.6. LC-MS: *m/z* = 327 [M + H]. Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{22}N_2OS$: C, 69.90; H, 6.79; N, 8.58. Found: C, 70.03; H, 6.87; N, 8.65.

(8) Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures **4f** and **5a** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 774773 and CCDC 774774. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK [fax: +44 (1223)336033 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

(9) (a) Saegusa, T.; Ito, Y.; Kobayashi, S.; Hirota, K.; Yoshioka, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1966**, *7*, 6121. (b) Smith, R.; Livinghouse, T. *Synth. Commun.* **1984**, *14*, 639. (c) Hashida, Y.; Imai, A.; Sekiguchi, S. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1989**, *26*, 9901. (d) Simon, J. R. *Synthesis* **2001**, 2011. (e) Cao, C.; Shi, Y.; Odom, A. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 2880.