Iodine/DMSO-Promoted Selective Direct Arylthiation of Anilines with Thiols under Metal-Free Conditions

[DE]

Wenqi Zhao, Feng Zhang,* and Guo-Jun Deng*

Cite This: https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.0c02078



ACCESS

III Metrics & More

ABSTRACT: An iodine-promoted divergent thiolation of unprotected anilines with thiols for the synthesis of sulfide anilines has been described. The combinational use of I₂ and DMSO played an important role to realize this kind of transformation without the aid of a metal catalyst and strong oxidants. The reaction selectivity was well controlled to provide mono-, bis-, and trisubstituted diaryl sulfide derivatives. More importantly, iodination and sulfenylation can occur simultaneously to provide useful multifunctionalized iodoaniline products. This method afforded an efficient protocol for the construct C–S and C–I bonds from the C–H bond under mild reaction conditions.



INTRODUCTION

Sulfur-containing compounds are crucial for the synthesis of diverse compounds in pharmaceutical drugs, natural products, pesticides, and material science.¹ Among them, diaryl sulfides have attracted much more attention because of their unique biological activity. These compounds have therapeutic potential for the treatment of breast cancer, HIV, diabetes, and inflammatory diseases.² In addition, these compounds also act as important synthons for organic synthesis.³ Therefore, efficient synthetic methods for the construction of various diaryl sulfides have inspired great efforts. During the past several decades, several significant synthetic methods for the construction of diaryl sulfides have been reported. Among these approaches, the transition-metal-catalyzed cross-coupling of thiols, disulfides, or even elemental sulfur with aryl halides and the reaction of organometals such as arylmagnesium compounds and arylboronic acid derivatives with electrophilic arylsulfur reagents are frequently used for the synthesis of diverse diaryl sulfide compounds.⁴ However, these methods are susceptible to the need for highly functionalized starting materials, expensive metal catalysts, harsh reaction conditions, and producing a large amount of waste.

Although there are many other alternative methods for the construction of diaryl sulfide derivatives from various starting materials,⁵ it is no doubt that the direct arylthiolation of widely present C–H bonds with appropriate thiolating reagents is the most economic and efficient approach.⁶ The synthesis of diaryl sulfides via direct C–H sulfenylation under transition-metal-catalyzed or metal-free conditions with diverse sulfur reagents including disulfides,⁷ sulfonyl chlorides,⁸ sulfinates,⁹ sulfonyl hydrazides,¹⁰ and others¹¹ has attracted considerable attention.

In spite of utilities, however, multiple steps are usually indispensable to prepare these highly prefunctionalized sulfenylating reagents. Therefore, the direct oxidative C-H/ S-H cross-dehydrogenative couplings (CDCs) of simple and readily available thiols to form C-S bonds can provide an efficient and environmentally benign synthetic approach.¹² In the past several years, some new methods have been developed for the direct oxidative sulfenylation of electron-rich arenes such as phenols,¹³ aryl ethers,¹⁴ indole derivatives,¹⁵ or heterocycles¹⁶ under transition-metal-catalyzed or metal-free conditions. Aromatic amines are widely found in drug molecules, pesticides, functional materials, and natural products. Furthermore, because of their active amino groups, these compounds can be easily converted into other nitrogencontaining functional molecules.¹⁷ Therefore, direct functionalization reaction based on aromatic amines has been a hot research field in organic synthesis. Among them, C-S bond formation via C-H sulfenylation of anilines has also attracted considerable interest. Arylsulfonyl hydrazides,¹⁸ arylthio-pyrrolidine-2,5-diones,¹⁹ sulfinamides,²⁰ disulfides,²¹ arylsulfonyl chlorides,²² and thioesters²³ were successfully used as the sulfenylation reagents. Furthermore, Wang and co-workers developed an excellent protocol for direct sulfenylation of substituted anilines with thiols under metal-free conditions.²⁴

Received: August 28, 2020



Noël and co-workers reported a one-pot Stadler-Ziegler process to form C–S bonds by employing $Ru(bpy)_3Cl_2\cdot 6H_2O$ as a photoredox catalyst.²⁵ Lei and co-workers communicated a progress on an electrocatalytic oxidant-free dehydrogenative C-H/S-H cross-coupling in a simple undivided cell under constant-current conditions.²⁶ A catalytic amount of iodine is crucial for this kind of transformation, and the strong oxidant di-tert-butyl peroxide is necessary to get a satisfactory reaction yield. Because the reaction tends to occur in the para and ortho positions of the amino group, the selectivity control is critical in this process. In our previous research, we found that combined use of the iodide additive or iodine and DMSO system could provide a mild oxidative reaction condition for selective transformation.²⁷ We speculate that such a system may also be efficient for the oxidative sulfenylation of anilines with good selectivity and compatible functional groups. As part of our continuing efforts on C-S bond construction under metal-free conditions,²⁸ herein, we describe metal- and strong oxidant-free direct C-H sulfenylation of anilines with thiols, selectively providing mono-, bis-, and tri-sulfenylation products in reasonable yields. More importantly, iodination and sulfenylation reactions can occur simultaneously to provide very useful multifunctionalized products.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We commenced our investigation using aniline (1a) and 4methylbenzenethiol (2a) as the standard substrates to optimize the reaction conditions (Table 1). To our delight, 2,4,6trisubstituted product 4aa was generated exclusively in oxylene at 120 °C when I_2 (1 equiv) and DMSO (4 equiv) were used (entry 1). The reaction yield did not increase when other solvents such as toluene, dioxane, and PhCl were used (entries 2-4); however, a better yield could be obtained when *ortho*dichlorobenzene (o-DCB) was used (entry 5). The reaction showed good reactivity under an air atmosphere, and a decline in yield was observed under an O_2 atmosphere (entry 6). Increasing the amount of I₂ or DMSO led to a better yield of the product (entries 7-11). DMSO played a key role in the present thiolation reaction, and no product was observed when the coupling reaction was run in its absence (entry 12). Furthermore, the addition of molecular sieves could further increase the reaction yield to 95% (entry 13). For comparison, when H₂O was added, the reaction yield decreased to 52% (entry 14). It was also interesting to find that 4-substituted product 3aa was obtained as the major product when excess of aniline was used and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) or DMF was used as a solvent (entries 15 and 16). The reaction yield could be slightly increased by increasing the amount of I_2 or DMSO (entries 17-20). The yield could also be enhanced by adding molecular sieves to give the desired 3aa in 69% yield (entry 21).

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, various aryl thiols were investigated for the mono-sulfenylation, and the results are summarized in Scheme 1. The model reaction of 1a and 2a afforded 3aa in 67% isolated yield in the presence of I_2 /DMSO using DMF as the solvent. In general, the reaction between aniline (1a) and various thiol derivatives bearing methyl and halogens such as F, Cl, and Br on the aromatic ring led to good yields for the desired products. The position of substituents on thiophenol affected the reaction yields significantly (3aa, 3ae, and 3af). Notably, higher yields could even be achieved when methyl and bromo substituents were presented at the ortho position (3af and 3ah).

Table 1. Screening the Reaction Conditions^a



^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), solvent (1.0 mL), air, 12 h. ^bGC yield based on **1a**. ^cUnder O₂. ^d100 mg 4 Å MS. ^eIsolated yield based on **2**. ^f1.5 equiv H₂O. ^gSubstrate amounts: **1a** (0.4 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol). GC yield based on **2a**. ^h100 mg 4 Å MS.

Subsequently, the substrate scope for the synthesis of trisubstituted products was investigated using different arylthiols under the given reaction conditions. As presented in Scheme 2, a variety of thiols were successfully coupled with aniline (1a) to give the corresponding thiolation products in good to high yields under the I₂/DMSO system using o-DCB as the solvent. The position of the methyl substituent did not significantly affect the reaction yields, and all of them afforded the desired products in more than 90% yield (4aa, 4ae, and 4af). Notably, when we used 3aa instead of 1a, we also obtained 4aa in 95%. Halogen functional groups were well accommodated to afford the desired products in reasonable vields. Furthermore, 4ab was obtained in 97% yield when a fluoro group was presented at the para position. The bromo group located at the ortho position gave a slightly higher yield (4ad and 4ah). Notably, N-methylaniline and formanilide could also be involved in this kind of reaction to give the same product 4aa, both of which lost the functional groups on amine during the reaction.

As noticed by others²⁴ and us, the easiest place to reach for this kind of arylthiation is the para position of the amino group. Therefore, 4-substituted anilines are always used to prepare ortho arylthiation products. To further explore this method for diaryl sulfide preparation, we investigated several para-substituted anilines for this kind of reaction. To our delight, mono-arylthiation products could be obtained solely

Scheme 1. Substrate Scope with Respect to the Thiophenols a^{a}



"Reaction conditions: 1a (0.4 mmol), 2 (0.2 mmol), I_2 (1.5 equiv), DMSO (8 equiv), DMF (1.0 mL), 4 Å MS (100 mg). Air, 12 h. Isolated yield based on 2.



^aReaction conditions: 1a (0.2 mmol), 2 (1.0 mmol), I₂ (2.0 equiv), DMSO (6 equiv), o-DCB (1.0 mL), 4 Å MS (100 mg), air, 16 h. Isolated yield based on 1a. ^b3aa instead of 1a as the substrate.

by using an excess of anilines to give the corresponding products in good to high yields (Scheme 3). For example, when *para*-toluidine was used as the substrate, all thiols with





^{*a*}Reaction conditions: 1 (0.4 mmol), 2 (0.2 mmol), I_2 (1.5 equiv), DMSO (8 equiv), DMF (1.0 mL), 4 Å MS (100 mg). Air, 12 h. Yield based on 2. ^{*b*}6 mmol scale.

methyl and halogens at the para position could smoothly react to furnish the desired products in excellent yields (5aa-5ad). A better yield could be achieved when the methyl group was located at the ortho position in aryl thiol. 2,3-Dichlorobenzenethiol could be used for this reaction to afford **5ai** in 87% yield. Notably, other para-substituted anilines could smoothly react with *para*-toluenethiol to give the corresponding products in high yields (5aj-5al). In addition, we could know that 2-naphthylamine and 4-methylbenzenethiol react with a yield of 77% (5am).

Furthermore, the bis-arylthiation product could be selectively obtained by fine-tuning the reaction conditions as shown in Scheme 4. A series of para-substituted anilines were used to react with 2a to give the corresponding products in good to high yields (6aa-6ad). At the same time, when we used 5aa instead of 1a, we also obtained 6aa in 92%. However, the much lower yield was obtained when 4-methoxyaniline was used (6ae). Notably, halogens such as F and Cl were well tolerated to give the desired product in moderate yields (6af and 6ag). Furthermore, thiols with an electron-donating group reacted smoothly to give products in moderate yields (6ah, 6am, and 6ap). When alkyls and halogens presented at different positions, they all gave the desired products in good to excellent yields. Notably, 6ar with an active bromo substituent at the ortho position could be obtained in 94% yield, which provides an opportunity for further conversion.

Interestingly, when we altered the proportion of 1 and 2 under the standard reaction, we were surprised to obtain 2iodo-4-methyl-6-(p-tolylthio)aniline as the new outcome (Scheme 5). We then slightly adjusted the condition of reactions, and we finally got the optimized reaction conditions Scheme 4. Substrate Scope with Respect to the Anilines and Thiophenols a



^{*a*}Reaction conditions: 1 (0.2 mmol), 2 (0.5 mmol), I_2 (1.5 equiv), DMSO (4 equiv), *o*-DCB (1.0 mL), 4 Å MS (100 mg), air, 12 h. Isolated yield based on 1. ^{*b*}5 mmol scale. ^{*c*}Saa instead of 1.

for iodination products: I_2 (2.0 equiv), DMSO (4.0 equiv), and o-DCB as the solvent. Under the optimized reaction

Scheme 5. Substrate Scope with Respect to Thiophenols^a

conditions, 1 was smoothly reacted with several thiols to give the corresponding products in moderate to good yields. More importantly, halogens in thiols were well tolerated to give the desired products with multi-halogen functional groups (7ab-7ad, 7ag-7ah). No obvious substituent effect was observed when the methyl substituent was located at different positions. This reaction provided an efficient and facile approach to anilines with various functional groups.

As mentioned above, the most advantage of this method is that the reaction conditions are very simple, and no transitionmetal catalyst or strong oxidant is needed. Therefore, the reaction has very good functional group stability, which provides a new opportunity for further transformation of the product. We evaluated the transformation of **5ah** and **6ar**, both of which have a reactive bromo group at the ortho position (Scheme 6). When **5ah** and **6ar** were treated with Pd₂dba₃





(2% mmol), SPhos (4% mmol), and *t*-BuONa (2.0 equiv) under an argon atmosphere in NMP (0.6 mL) at 110 $^{\circ}$ C, both of them smoothly gave the corresponding cyclized products **Sah'** and **6ar'** in 80 and 65% yields, respectively. This method provides a convenient and concise way to synthesize the fused heterocyclic compounds.



"Reaction conditions: 1 (0.4 mmol), 2 (0.2 mmol), I₂ (2.0 equiv), DMSO (4.0 equiv), o-DCB (1.0 mL), 4 Å MS (100 mg). Air, 12 h. Yield based on 2.

To understand the mechanism of the reaction, several control experiments were performed (Scheme 7). 4-Iodoani-

Scheme 7. Control Experiments



line (1a') was observed when 1a was treated under the optimized reaction conditions in the absence of the thiol substrate. *p*-Tolyl disulfide (2a') could be obtained in 93% yield from 2a under standard conditions. However, treatment of 1a' with 2a in the absence of I_2 did not yield any desired product, whereas the reaction of 1a with 2a' yielded the desired product 3aa in 60% yield. Hence, disulfides are probably the intermediate products. Meanwhile, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO) was added to the standard reaction conditions, and the reaction was completely inhibited by its 2 equiv. This indicates that a radical pathway was probably involved in this kind of reaction.

When we probe the substrate scope, we also tried aliphatic thiols, but we did not observe any corresponding products under the standard conditions. These results may be contributed to the high stability of aliphatic disulfide. Besides, electron-deficient anilines also did not work, suggesting an electrophilic sulfuration process in the C–S bond formation.

Based on the above observation and previous literature, a possible reaction mechanism is illustrated in Scheme 8. Initially, the oxidation of the thiol molecule by iodine generates the thiyl radical **A**. Homo-coupling of two thiyl radicals affords the disulfide intermediate 2a'. The reaction of 2a' with I_2 forms 2 equiv of electrophilic species *p*-MePhSI (**B**),²⁹ which attacks aniline to generate intermediate **C**. Finally, deprotonation results in the desired product 3aa. Similarly, 4aa can be obtained by repeating these steps. Treatment of HI with DMSO could regenerate the important molecular iodine.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have described a metal- and strong oxidantfree C-S bond formation using anilines and aryl thiols as the starting materials. The combinational use of molecular iodine and DMSO could significantly improve the reaction efficiency

Scheme 8. Possible Reaction Mechanism



and selectivity. Mono-, bis-, and tri-sulfenylation products were selectively formed by fine-tuning the reaction conditions. Synthetically useful functionalities such as halogens were smoothly compatible with the DMSO-based oxidative reaction conditions. Besides, iodination and sulfenylation reactions can occur simultaneously to provide very useful multifunctionalized aniline products. This metal- and strong oxidant-free method provides an efficient and selective alternative access to diaryl sulfides with a free amino group, which may have practical applications in organic and pharmaceutical fields.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Information. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of air unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (neutral) (200–300 mesh). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-AV (400, 100, and 376 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) or chloroform signals. Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 5975 gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC–MS) instrument (EI). High-resolution mass spectra were recorded at Beijing Forestry University. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was conducted using electrospray ionization (ESI) or matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) and was performed on an FTMS ICR MS BRUKER 7T. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR, and MS data with those of the literature. All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3. Aniline (38.0 μ L, 0.4 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol (25.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I₂ (75.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), and molecular sieves (100.0 mg) were added to an ovendried reaction vessel (5 mL). The reaction vessel was sealed, and DMSO (120.0 μ L, 1.6 mmol) and DMF (1.0 mL) were added using a syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 120 °C for 12 h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium thiosulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to yield the desired product **3aa** as a yellow liquid (28.9 mg, 67% yield), $R_f = 0.50$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 4. Aniline (19.0 μ L, 0.2 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol (124.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), I₂ (100.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), and molecular sieves (100.0 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction vessel (5 mL). The reaction vessel was sealed, and DMSO (90.0 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and *o*-DCB (1.0 mL) were added using a syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 120 °C for 12

h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium thiosulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 150:1) to yield the desired product **4aa** as a yellow solid (82.8 mg, 90% yield), mp 114–116 °C. $R_{\rm f}$ = 0.60 (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 150:1).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 5. *p*-Toluidine (43.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol (25.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I₂ (75.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), and molecular sieves (100.0 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction vessel (5 mL). The reaction vessel was sealed, and DMSO (120.0 μ L, 1.6 mmol) and DMF (1.0 mL) were added using a syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 120 °C for 12 h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium thiosulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1) to yield the desired product **5aa** as a yellow liquid (37.6 mg, 82% yield), $R_{\rm f} = 0.60$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 6. p-Toluidine (21.5 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol (63.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), I₂ (75.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), and molecular sieves (100.0 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction vessel (5 mL). The reaction vessel was sealed, and DMSO (60.0 μ L, 0.8 mmol) and o-DCB (1.0 mL) were added using a syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 120 °C for 12 h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium thiosulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 150:1) to yield the desired product 6aa as a light-yellow solid (64.7 mg, 92% yield), mp 102–104 °C. R_f = 0.60 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1).

Procedure for the Gram-Scale Reaction of 5ah. 2-Bromobenzenethiol (1.2 g, 6 mmol), *p*-toluidine (1.3 g, 12 mmol), I₂ (2.3 g, 9 mmol), and molecular sieves (2.0 g) were added to a round-bottomed flask (50 mL). DMSO (2.4 mL, 40 mmol) and DMF (15 mL) were added using a measuring cylinder. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 130 °C for 16 h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (25 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1) to yield the desired product **5ah** as a yellow liquid (1.38 g, 78% yield). $R_{\rm f} = 0.60$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1).

Procedure for the Gram-Scale Reaction of 6aa. *p*-Toluidine (547.0 mg, 5 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol (1.9 g, 15 mmol), I_2 (1.9 g, 7.5 mmol), and molecular sieves (2.0 g) were added to a roundbottomed flask (50 mL). DMSO (1.2 mL, 20 mmol) and *o*-DCB (15 mL) were added using a measuring cylinder. The reaction vessel was stirred in an oil bath at 130 °C for 18 h under an air atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (25 mL) and washed with saturated saltwater. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1) to yield the desired product **6aa** as a light-yellow solid (1.31 g, 75% yield), mp 102–104 °C. $R_f = 0.60$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1).

4-(*p*-Tolylthio)aniline (**3aa**).^{29d} Black liquid (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 20:1); 67% (28.8 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (q, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.4, 135.4, 135.3, 129.6, 128.2, 121.8, 115.9, 20.9; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NS, 215.0769; found, 215.0765.

4-((4-Fluorophenyl)thio)aniline (**3ab**).^{29d} Purple-black liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 73% (32.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.97– 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.2 (C–F, ¹ J_{C-F} = 245.1 Hz), 146.8, 135.4, 134.2 (C–F, ⁴ J_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 129.9 (C–F, ³ J_{C-F} = 7.9 Hz), 121.4, 116.0, 115.9 (C–F, ² J_{C-F} = 21.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –117.10; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₀FNS, 219.0518; found, 219.0514.

4-((4-Chlorophenyl)thio)aniline (**3ac**).^{29d} Purple-black liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 77% (36.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.05–6.99 (m, 2H), 6.70–6.64 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.1, 138.4, 136.1, 130.9, 128.8, 128.3, 119.8, 115.9; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₀ClNS, 235.0223; found, 235.0219.

4-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)aniline (**3ad**).^{29d} Purple liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 70% (39.1 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34–7.28 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.3, 139.2, 136.2, 131.7, 128.5, 119.0, 118.7, 115.9.

147.3, 139.2, 136.2, 131.7, 128.5, 119.0, 118.7, 115.9. 4-(*m*-Tolylthio)aniline (**3ae**).^{29d} Light-pink liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 70% (30.1 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34–7.28 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.7, 139.2, 138.6, 135.9, 128.6, 127.9, 126.2, 124.4, 120.7, 115.9, 21.3; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NS, 215.0769; found, 215.0767.

4-(o-Tolylthio)aniline (**3af**).^{29d} Light-pink liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 86% (37.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.85 (m, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.7, 138.3, 135.9, 135.6, 123.0, 127.6, 126.3, 125.3, 120.4, 116.0, 20.1.

4-((2-Chlorophenyl)thio)aniline (**3ag**).^{29d} Purple liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 60% (28.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.06–6.97 (m, 2H), 6.75–6.66 (m, 3H), 3.80 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.7, 139.6, 137.2, 130.3, 129.2, 126.9, 126.8, 125.5, 117.7, 116.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₀ClNS, 235.0223; found, 235.0221.

4-((2-Bromophenyl)thio)aniline (**3ah**). Purple liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1); 87% (48.5 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.89 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.68–6.63 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.8, 141.6, 137.3, 132.5, 127.5, 126.8, 125.7, 120.0, 118.2, 116.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₀BrNS, 278.9717; found, 278.9713.

2,4,6-Tris(p-tolylthio)aniline (4aa). Colorless solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 90% (82.6 mg); mp 114–116 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (s, 2H), 7.12–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 8H), 5.03 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.7, 142.9, 136.1, 136.0, 134.3, 131.7, 129.9, 129.8, 128.9, 127.5, 121.6, 116.9, 21.0, 21.0; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₇H₂₅NS₃, 459.1150; found, 459.1149.

2,4,6-Tris((4-fluorophenyl)thio)aniline (4ab). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 97% (91.2 mg); mp 89–91 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (s, 2H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.06 (m, 4H), 6.95 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 6H), 4.91 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.71 (C–F, ${}^{1}J_{C-F}$ = 246.6 Hz), 161.64 (C–F, ${}^{1}J_{C-F}$ = 246.6 Hz), 149.48, 142.41, 132.56 (C–F, ${}^{4}J_{C-F}$ = 3.3 Hz), 131.17 (C–F, ${}^{3}J_{C-F}$ = 8.0 Hz), 130.04 (C–F, ${}^{4}J_{C-F}$ = 3.3 Hz), 129.58 (C–F, ${}^{3}J_{C-F}$ = 8.0 Hz), 122.12, 117.30, 116.35 (C–F, ${}^{2}J_{C-F}$ = 22.2 Hz), 116.17 (C–F, ${}^{2}J_{C-F}$ = 22.0 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –115.40, –115.45; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₆F₃NS₃, 471.0397; found, 471.0396.

2,4,6-Tris((4-chlorophenyl)thio)aniline (4ac). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 82% (85.4 mg); mp 113–115 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 6H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.87 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.4, 144.2, 136.6, 133.7, 132.2, 132.0, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.3, 120.7, 116.2; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/ *z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₆Cl₃NS₃, 518.9511; found, 518.9515.

2,4,6-Tris((4-bromophenyl)thio)aniline (4ad). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 67% (87.6 mg); mp 122–124 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 6H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 5.08 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.5, 144.5, 137.4, 134.4, 132.2, 132.0, 129.6, 128.5, 120.5, 120.0, 119.9, 116.0; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₆Br₃NS₃, 652.7975; found, 652.7977.

2,4,6-*Tris*(*m*-tolylthio)aniline (4ae). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 98% (90.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 6.98–6.85 (m, 9H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 9H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.7, 144.7, 138.9, 138.7, 138.3, 135.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.4, 126.9, 126.6, 124.8, 123.9, 120.3, 116.1, 21.4, 21.3; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₇H₂₅NS₃, 459.1150; found, 459.1162.

2,4,6-Tris(o-tolylthio)aniline (**4af**). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 150:1); 96% (88.1 mg); mp 114–116 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 7.10–7.03 (m, 6H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.9, 143.0, 136.9, 136.7, 136.0, 134.2, 130.4, 130.2, 128.6, 126.6, 126.5, 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 121.0, 116.2, 20.2, 20.1; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₇H₂₅NS₃, 459.1150; found, 459.1167.

2,4,6-Tris((2-chlorophenyl)thio)aniline (4ag). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 83% (86.5 mg); mp 133–135 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (s, 2H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 6H), 6.91–6.86 (m, 1H), 6.77–6.72 (m, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.8, 146.2, 137.9, 134.4, 131.9, 131.6, 129.8, 129.7, 128.0, 127.3, 127.1, 126.9, 126.9, 126.6, 118.9, 115.1; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₆Cl₃NS₃, 518.9511; found, 518.9515.

2,4,6-Tris((2-bromophenyl)thio)aniline (**4ah**). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 70% (91.6 mg); mp 114–116 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 3H), 7.05–6.97 (m, 3H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.6, 146.3, 139.9, 136.4, 133.1, 133.0, 127.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.8, 126.7, 121.6, 121.4, 119.4, 115.7; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₆Br₃NS₃, 652.7975; found, 652.7977.

4-Methyl-2-(p-tolylthio)aniline (*5aa*).^{29d} Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 82% (37.6 mg); mp 74–76 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.06–6.97 (m, 5H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.0, 137.1, 135.3, 133.1, 131.6, 129.7, 128.1, 126.9, 115.5, 115.2, 20.9, 20.1; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NS, 229.0925; found, 229.0924.

2-((4-Fluorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ab**).³⁰ Colorless liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 90% (42.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.11–7.00 (m, 3H), 6.96–6.87 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.2 (C–F, ¹ J_{C-F} = 244.9 Hz), 146.1, 137.1, 131.9 (C–F, ⁴ J_{C-F} = 4.5 Hz), 128.6 (C–F, ³ J_{C-F} = 7.8 Hz), 128.2, 116.0 (C–F, ² J_{C-F} = 22.1 Hz), 115.6, 114.7, 20.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –117.2; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₂FNS, 233.0675; found, 233.0674. Article

2-((4-Chlorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ac**).³⁷ Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 93% (46.5 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.03 (m, 1H), 7.03–6.95 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3, 137.4, 135.6, 132.2, 131.1, 129.0, 128.2, 127.6, 115.6, 113.7, 20.2; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₃ClNS, 250.0452; found, 250.0441.

2-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ad**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 97% (57.1 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.08–7.02 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3, 137.4, 136.3, 132.2, 131.9, 128.2, 127.8, 118.9, 115.6, 113.5, 20.2; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₂BrNS, 292.9874; found, 292.9875.

4-Methyl-2-(m-tolylthio)aniline (**5ae**).²⁴ Colorless liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 83% (38.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.02 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.2, 138.8, 137.4, 136.6, 131.8, 128.8, 128.1, 127.1, 126.3, 123.5, 115.5, 114.5, 21.4, 20.2.

4-Methyl-2-(o-tolylthio)aniline (**5af**).²⁴ Colorless solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 95% (43.5 mg); mp 75–77 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.08–6.98 (m, 3H), 6.76–6.68 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.2, 137.3, 135.8, 135.1, 131.7, 130.1, 128.4, 126.5, 125.3, 125.1, 115.5, 114.0, 20.2, 20.0.

2-((2-Chlorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ag**). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 85% (42.2 mg); mp 81–83 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.12–7.07 (m, 1H), 7.07–7.00 (m, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.66–6.60 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.8, 137.9, 136.1, 132.5, 130.8, 129.4, 128.4, 127.1, 126.2, 125.9, 115.6, 112.4, 20.2; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₃ClNS, 250.0452; found, 250.0442.

2-((2-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ah**).³² Light-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 80% (47.1 mg); mp 82–84 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.7, 138.1, 137.8, 132.7, 132.6, 128.4, 127.7, 126.2, 126.1, 120.5, 115.6, 113.0, 20.2.

2-((2,3-Dichlorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**5ai**). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 87% (49.5 mg); mp 120–122 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 1H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.54–6.48 (m, 1H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.7, 139.0, 137.8, 133.2, 132.9, 128.5, 127.3, 126.4, 124.0, 115.7, 112.1, 20.2; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁Cl₂NS, 282.9989; found, 282.9990.

2-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-ethylaniline (**5a***j*). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 94% (57.9 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 2.54 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.5, 136.3, 134.9, 131.9, 131.1, 127.7, 118.8, 115.6, 113.4, 27.7, 15.7; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₄BrNS, 307.0030; found, 307.0026.

2-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-isopropylaniline (**5ak**). Wine-red solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 92% (59.3 mg); mp 54–56 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 2.87–2.74 (m, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.5, 139.7, 136.3, 135.0, 131.9, 129.7, 127.7, 118.8, 115.6, 113.4, 33.0, 24.1; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₆BrNS, 321.0187; found, 321.0182.

2-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-(tert-butyl)aniline (**5a**l). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 91% (61.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 3H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.28 (s, 9H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.2, 142.0, 136.4, 134.0, 131.9, 128.7, 127.6, 118.8, 115.3, 113.0, 34.0, 31.4; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₈BrNS, 335.0343; found, 335.0347.

1-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)naphthalen-2-amine (**5am**).²⁴ Black liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1); 77% (40.8 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (m, *J* = 12.1, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (m, *J* = 11.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (q, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.2, 136.6, 134.8, 133.1, 131.6, 129.7, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 126.0, 124.3, 122.5, 117.6, 105.2, 20.8; HRMS (ESI) $[M + H]^+$ *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NS, 266.0998; found, 266.1002.

4-Methyl-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (**6aa**). Light-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 92% (64.7 mg); mp 102–104 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.02 (q, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 8H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.0, 138.9, 135.6, 132.6, 129.8, 127.3, 127.0, 115.6, 20.9, 20; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NS₂, 351.1115; found, 351.1111.

4-Ethyl-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (**6ab**). Yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 87% (63.6 mg); mp 86–88 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (s, 2H), 7.01 (q, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 8H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 2.52 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.3, 137.9, 135.5, 133.9, 132.6, 129.8, 126.9, 115.5, 27.5, 20.9, 15.6; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NS₂, 365.1272; found, 365.1266.

4-Isopropyl-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (**6ac**). Deep-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 89% (67.5 mg); mp 68–70 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39 (s, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 2.88–2.64 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.20 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 138.6, 136.6, 135.4, 132.6, 129.8, 126.8, 115.3, 32.9, 24.0, 20.9; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₅NS₂, 379.1428; found, 379.1422.

4-(*tert-Butyl*)-2,6-*bis*(*p*-tolylthio)aniline (**6ad**). Light-yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 95% (74.7 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (s, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.27 (s, 9H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.1, 141.0, 135.8, 135.4, 132.6, 129.8, 126.7, 115.0, 34.0, 31.4, 20.9; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₇NS₂, 393.1585; found, 393.1582.

4-Methoxy-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (6ae). Bright-yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 40% (29.4 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26 (s, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 8H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.4, 144.5, 143.4, 136.1, 131.9, 129.9, 127.8, 122.9, 117.7, 55.9, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₂NOS₂, 368.1137; found, 368.1122.

4-Fluoro-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (**6af**). Wine-red solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 62% (44.1 mg); mp 53–55 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 8H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.1 (C–F, ¹*J*_{C–F} = 240.5 Hz), 145.59 (C–F, ⁴*J*_{C–F} = 2.1 Hz), 136.6, 131.1, 130.0, 128.4, 122.84 (C–F, ²*J*_{C–F} = 22.7 Hz), 117.77 (C–F, ³*J*_{C–F} = 7.9 Hz), 20.98; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –126.1; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₈FNS₂, 355.0865; found, 355.0859.

4-Chloro-2,6-bis(p-tolylthio)aniline (**6ag**). Light-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 77% (57.2 mg); mp 112–114 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (s, 2H), 7.10–7.02 (m, 8H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.2, 136.5, 136.5, 131.2, 130.0, 128.0, 121.4, 117.7, 21.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₈ClNS₂, 371.0569; found, 371.0563.

2,6-Bis((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6ah**). Light-yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 69% (59.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24 (s, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.4, 147.0, 137.5, 129.8, 127.31, 126.4, 117.2, 114.7, 55.3, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₂S₂, 383.1014; found, 383.1012.

2,6-Bis((4-fluorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (6ai). Dark-red liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 80% (57.5 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.07 (m, *J* = 8.7, 5.1 Hz, 4H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.3 (C-F, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 245.6 Hz), 147.9, 139.1, 131.1 (C-F, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 128.82 (C-F, ³*J*_{C-F} = 7.9 Hz), 127.6, 116.1 (C-F, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.1 Hz), 115.7, 20.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -116.5. HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for 359.0614; found, 359.0618.

2,6-Bis((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6aj**). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 90% (70.6 mg); mp 92–94 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (s, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 4H), 7.03–6.96 (m, 4H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.3, 139.8, 134.8, 131.6, 129.1, 127.8, 127.7, 114.6, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₅Cl₂NS₂, 391.0023; found, 391.0019.

2,6-Bis((4-bromophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6ak**). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 88% (84.7 mg); mp 94–96 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (s, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 6.93 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 139.9, 135.5, 132.0, 128.0, 127.7, 119.3, 114.4, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₅Br₂NS₂, 480.8992; found, 480.9004.

4-Methyl-2,6-bis(m-tolylthio)aniline (**6a**l). Bright-yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 84% (59.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (s, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.6, 139.5, 138.8, 136.1, 128.9, 127.3, 127.1, 126.5, 123.5, 114.8, 21.4, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NS₂, 351.1115; found, 351.1111.

2,6-Bis((3-methoxyphenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (6am). Lightyellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 40% (30.6 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.70–6.59 (m, 6H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.0, 148.7, 139.9, 137.8, 129.8, 127.4, 118.6, 114.5, 111.9, 111.1, 55.1, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₂S₂, 383.1014; found, 383.1015.

4-Methyl-2,6-bis(o-tolylthio)aniline (**6an**). Light-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 92% (64.6 mg); mp 113–115 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.16–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.00 (m, 4H), 6.79–6.71 (m, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 139.2, 135.4, 135.2, 130.2, 127.7, 126.5, 125.5, 125.4, 114.5, 20.0; HRMS (ESI) [M + H]⁺ m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₂NS₂, 352.1188; found, 352.1175.

2,6-Bis((2-ethylphenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6ao**). Light-yellow solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 85% (64.5 mg); mp 53–55 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 2.80 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 141.3, 139.2, 134.6, 128.5, 127.7, 126.5, 125.9, 125.7, 114.8, 26.6, 20.0, 14.2; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₃NS₂, 379.1428; found, 379.1427.

2,6-Bis((2-methoxyphenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6ap**). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50:1); 64% (49.0 mg); mp 141–142 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39 (s, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.87–6.78 (m, 4H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.7, 149.4, 140.0, 127.4, 126.4, 124.5, 121.2, 113.5, 110.3, 55.8, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₂S₂, 383.1014; found, 383.1015.

2,6-Bis((2-chlorophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (6aq). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 83% (65.1 mg); mp 120–122 °C;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43 (s, 2H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.03 (m, 4H), 6.70–6.65 (m, 2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.2, 140.6, 135.4, 131.2, 129.6, 127.9, 127.1, 126.3, 113.3, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₅Cl₂NS₂, 391.0023; found, 391.0019.

2,6-Bis((2-bromophenyl)thio)-4-methylaniline (**6ar**). White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 150:1); 94% (90.4 mg); mp 137–139 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.95 (m, 2H), 6.67–6.61 (m, 2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.1, 140.6, 137.3, 132.9, 128.0, 127.7, 126.5, 126.3, 121.0, 113.9, 20.0; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₅Br₂NS₂, 480.8992; found, 480.9004.

2-lodo-4-methyl-6-(p-tolylthio)aniline (7aa). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 62% (44.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07–7.00 (m, 4H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.2, 140.9, 137.5, 135.9, 132.3, 129.9, 129.2, 127.4, 115.1, 83.9, 20.9, 19.6; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₄INS, 354.9892; found, 354.9892.

2-((4-Fluorophenyl)thio)-6-iodo-4-methylaniline (**7ab**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 63% (45.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.98–6.91 (m, 2H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.4 (C–F, ¹*J*_{C–F} = 245.7 Hz), 146.1, 141.2, 137.6, 131.0 (C–F, ⁴*J*_{C–F} = 3.2 Hz), 129.4, 129.0 (C–F, ³*J*_{C–F} = 7.9 Hz), 116.2 (C–F, ²*J*_{C–F} = 22.1 Hz), 114.7, 83.9, 19.6; ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –116.34; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁FINS, 358.9641; found, 358.9641.

2-((4-Chlorophenyl)thio)-6-iodo-4-methylaniline (**7ac**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 60% (45.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 2H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.34, 141.6, 137.9, 134.7, 131.6, 129.4, 129.2, 127.9, 113.5, 83.9, 19.6; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁ClINS, 374.9345; found, 374.9346.

2-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-6-iodo-4-methylaniline (**7ad**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 50% (42.0 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.4, 141.6, 137.9, 135.4, 132.1, 129.4, 128.1, 119.4, 113.3, 83.9, 19.6; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁BrINS, 418.8840; found, 418.8842.

2-lodo-4-methyl-6-(m-tolylthio)aniline (**7ae**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 70% (49.7 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.4, 141.2, 138.9, 137.9, 135.8, 129.2, 129.0, 127.4, 126.8, 123.9, 114.3, 83.8, 21.4, 19.7; HRMS (ESI) $[M + H]^+ m/z$ calcd for C₁₄H₁₅INS, 355.9964; found, 355.9969.

2-lodo-4-methyl-6-(o-tolylthio)aniline (**7af**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 65% (46.2 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18– 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.00 (m, 2H), 6.74–6.70 (m, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3, 141.1, 137.7, 135.4, 135.0, 130.2, 129.4, 126.7, 125.8, 125.6, 113.8, 83.8, 20.0, 19.7; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₄INS, 354.9892; found, 354.9892.

2-((2-Chlorophenyl)thio)-6-iodo-4-methylaniline (**7ag**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 67% (50.3 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.09–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.66–6.61 (m, 1H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.9, 142.0, 138.5, 135.4, 131.0, 129.6, 129.5, 127.3, 126.4, 126.3, 112.1, 83.8, 19.6; HRMS (MALDI) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁ClINS, 374.9345; found, 374.9346.

2-((2-Bromophenyl)thio)-6-iodo-4-methylaniline (**7ah**). Yellow liquid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 66% (55.4 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (m, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 1H), 6.98 (m, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (m, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.8, 142.0, 138.4, 137.3, 132.8, 129.5, 127.9, 126.5, 126.3, 120.7, 112.6, 83.8, 19.6; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁BrINS, 418.8840; found, 418.8842.

3-Methyl-10H-phenothiazine (**5ah**', CAS: 3939-47-7).^{33,34} ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ 142.8, 140.0, 131.1, 128.4, 127.9, 126.9, 126.68, 121.9, 116.7, 116.6, 114.7, 20.4.

7-Methylbenzo[5,6][1,4]thiazino[2,3,4-kl]phenothiazine (**6ar**').^{33,34} White solid (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1); 65% (41.5 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.7, 136.8, 134.7, 127.9, 127.3, 126.9, 126.0, 125.4, 124.4, 120.4, 20.4; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₃NS₂, 319.0489; found, 319.0492.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.joc.0c02078.

Full characterization data and copies of NMR spectral data (PDF)

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Authors

- Feng Zhang Key Laboratory for Green Organic Synthesis and Application of Hunan Province, Key Laboratory of Environmentally Friendly Chemistry and Application of Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan 411105, China; School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha 410128, China; Email: zhangf@iccas.ac.cn
- Guo-Jun Deng Key Laboratory for Green Organic Synthesis and Application of Hunan Province, Key Laboratory of Environmentally Friendly Chemistry and Application of Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan 411105, China; orcid.org/0000-0003-2759-0314; Email: gjdeng@xtu.edu.cn

Author

Wenqi Zhao – Key Laboratory for Green Organic Synthesis and Application of Hunan Province, Key Laboratory of Environmentally Friendly Chemistry and Application of Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan 411105, China

Complete contact information is available at: https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.joc.0c02078

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21871226 and 21572194) and the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (2018M632976 and 2019T120709).

REFERENCES

(1) (a) Cremlyn, R. J. An Introduction to Organosulfur Chemistry; John Wiley & Sons: Chichester, 1996. (b) Mansy, S. S.; Cowan, J. A. Iron-Sulfur Cluster Biosynthesis: Toward an Understanding of Cellular Machinery and Molecular Mechanism. Acc. Chem. Res. **2004**, 37, 719–725. (c) Wang, X.; Cui, L.; Zhou, N.; Zhu, W.; Wang, R.; Qian, X.; Xu, Y. A Highly Selective and Sensitive Near-infrared Fluorescence Probe for Arylamine N-Acetyltransferase 2 in Vitro and in Vivo. Chem. Sci. **2013**, 4, 2936–2940. (d) Block, E. Fifty Years of Smelling Sulfur. J. Sulfur Chem. **2013**, 34, 158–207. (e) Ilardi, E. A.; Vitaku, E.; Njardarson, J. T. Data-Mining for Sulfur and Fluorine: An Evaluation of Pharmaceuticals To Reveal Opportunities for Drug Design and Discovery. J. Med. Chem. **2014**, 57, 2832–2842.

(2) (a) Nakazawa, T.; Xu, J.; Nishikawa, T.; Oda, T.; Fujita, A.; Ukai, K.; Mangindaan, R. E. P.; Rotinsulu, H.; Kobayashi, H.; Namikoshi, M. Lissoclibadins 4-7, Polysulfur Aromatic Alkaloids from the Indonesian Ascidian Lissoclinum cf. J. Nat. Prod. 2007, 70, 439-442. (b) Nielsen, S. F.; Nielsen, E. Ø.; Olsen, G. M.; Liljefors, T.; Peters, D. Novel Potent Ligands for the Central Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor: Synthesis, Receptor Binding, and 3D-QSAR Analysis. J. Med. Chem. 2000, 43, 2217-2226. (c) Mori, T.; Nishimura, T.; Yamamoto, T.; Doi, I.; Miyazaki, E.; Osaka, I.; Takimiya, K. Consecutive Thiophene-Annulation Approach to π -Extended Thienoacene-Based Organic Semiconductors with [1]-Benzothieno[3,2-b][1]benzo- thiophene (BTBT) Substructure. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 13900-13913. (d) Yonova, I. M.; Osborne, C. A.; Morrissette, N. S.; Jarvo, E. R. Diaryl and Heteroaryl Sulfides: Synthesis via Sulfenyl Chlorides and Evaluation as Selective Anti-Breast-Cancer Agents. J. Org. Chem. 2014, 79, 1947-1953.

(3) (a) Wang, L.; He, W.; Yu, Z. Transition-Metal Mediated Carbon-Sulfur Bond Activation and Transformations. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2013, 42, 599-621. (b) Modha, S. G.; Mehta, V. P.; Van der Eycken, E. V. Transition Metal-Catalyzed C-C Bond Formation via C-S Bond Cleavage: an Overview. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2013, 42, 5042-5055. (c) Lou, J.; Wang, Q.; Wu, P.; Wang, H.; Zhou, Y.-G.; Yu, Z. Transition-metal Mediated Carbon-Sulfur Bond Activation and Transformations: an Update. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2020, 49, 4307-4359. (4) (a) Shen, C.; Zhang, P.; Sun, Q.; Bai, S.; Hor, T. S. A.; Liu, X. Recent Advances in C-S Bond Formation via C-H Bond Functionalization and Decarboxylation. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2015, 44, 291-314. (b) Beletskaya, I. P.; Ananikov, V. P. Transition-Metal-Catalyzed C-S, C-Se, and C-Te Bond Formation via Cross-Coupling and Atom-Economic Addition Reactions. Chem. Rev. 2011, 111, 1596-1636. (c) Chauhan, P.; Mahajan, S.; Enders, D. Organocatalytic Carbon-Sulfur Bond-Forming Reactions. Chem. Rev. 2014, 114, 8807-8864.

(5) For selected examples, see: (a) Jiang, M.; Li, H.; Yang, H.; Fu, H. Room-Temperature Arylation of Thiols: Breakthrough with Aryl Chlorides. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 874-879. (b) Mori, T.; Nishimura, T.; Yamamoto, T.; Doi, I.; Miyazaki, E.; Osaka, I.; Takimiya, K. Consecutive Thiophene-Annulation Approach to π -Extended Thienoacene-Based Organic Semiconductors with [1]-Benzothieno[3,2-b][1]benzothiophene (BTBT) Substructure. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 13900-13913. (c) Arisawa, M.; Suzuki, T.; Ishikawa, T.; Yamaguchi, M. Rhodium-Catalyzed Substitution Reaction of Aryl Fluorides with Disulfides: p-Orientation in the Polyarylthiolation of Polyfluorobenzenes. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 130, 12214-12215. (d) Jones, K. D.; Power, D. J.; Bierer, D.; Gericke, K. M.; Stewart, S. G. Nickel Phosphite/Phosphine-Catalyzed C-S Cross-Coupling of Aryl Chlorides and Thiols. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 208-211. (e) Xu, H.-J.; Zhao, Y.-Q.; Feng, T.; Feng, Y.-S. Chan-Lam-Type S-Arylation of Thiols with Boronic Acids at Room Temperature. J. Org. Chem. 2012, 77, 2878-2884.

(6) (a) Dong, D.-Q.; Hao, S.-H.; Yang, D.-S.; Li, L.-X.; Wang, Z.-L. Sulfenylation of C-H Bonds for C-S Bond Formation under Metal-Free Conditions. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2017**, 6576–6592. (b) Lu, Y.; Luo, M. J.; Hu, M.; Li, Y.; Li, J. H. Dimethyl Sulfoxide as an Oxygen Atom Source Enabled Tandem Conversion of 2-Alkynyl Carbonyls to 1,2-Dicarbonyls. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2020**, 362, 1846–1850. (7) (a) Zhang, S.; Qian, P.; Zhang, M.; Hu, M.; Cheng, J. Copper-Catalyzed Thiolation of the Di- or Trimethoxybenzene Arene C-H Bond with Disulfides. J. Org. Chem. 2010, 75, 6732-6735. (b) Sang, P.; Chen, Z.; Zou, J.; Zhang, Y. K₂CO₃ Promoted Direct Sulfenylation of Indoles: a Facile Approach Towards 3-Sulfenylindoles. Green Chem. 2013, 15, 2096-2100. (c) Prasad, C. D.; Balkrishna, S. J.; Kumar, A.; Bhakuni, B. S.; Shrimali, K.; Biswas, S.; Kumar, S. Transition-Metal-Free Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Diaryl Chalcogenides from Arenes and Diaryl Dichalcogenides. J. Org. Chem. 2013, 78, 1434-1443. (d) Yang, Y.; Hou, W.; Qin, L.; Du, J.; Feng, H.; Zhou, B.; Li, Y. Rhodium-Catalyzed Direct Sulfenylation of Arene C-H Bonds. Chem.—Eur. J. 2014, 20, 416-420. (e) Iwasaki, M.; Iyanaga, M.; Tsuchiya, Y.; Nishimura, Y.; Li, W.; Li, Z.; Nishihara, Y. Palladium-Catalyzed Direct Thiolation of Aryl C-H Bonds with Disulfides. Chem.—Eur. J. 2014, 20, 2459-2462.

(8) Kumaraswamy, G.; Raju, R.; Narayanarao, V. Metal- and Basefree Syntheses of Aryl/Alkylthioindoles by the Iodine-induced Reductive Coupling of Aryl/Alkyl Sulfonyl Chlorides with Indoles. *RSC Adv.* **2015**, *5*, 22718–22723.

(9) (a) Xiao, F.; Xie, H.; Liu, S.; Deng, G.-J. Iodine-Catalyzed Regioselective Sulfenylation of Indoles with Sodium Sulfinates. Adv. Synth. Catal. **2014**, 356, 364–368. (b) Lin, Y.-m.; Lu, G.-p.; Wang, G.-x.; Yi, W.-b. Odorless, Regioselective Synthesis of Diaryl Sulfides and α -Thioaryl Carbonyls from Sodium Arylsulfinates via a Metal-Free Radical Strategy in Water. Adv. Synth. Catal. **2016**, 358, 4100–4105. (c) Xiao, F.; Chen, S.; Tian, J.; Huang, H.; Liu, Y.; Deng, G.-J. Chemoselective Cross-coupling Reaction of Sodium Sulfinates with Phenols under Aqueous Conditions. Green Chem. **2016**, 18, 1538–1546. (d) Sun, P.; Yang, D.; Wei, W.; Jiang, M.; Wang, Z.; Zhang, L.; Zhang, H.; Zhang, Z.; Wang, Y.; Wang, H. Visible Light-induced C–H Sulfenylation using Sulfinic Acids. Green Chem. **2017**, 19, 4785–4791.

(10) (a) Hosseinian, A.; Arshadi, S.; Sarhandi, S.; Monfared, A.; Vessally, E. Direct C-H Bond Sulfenylation of (Het)arenes Using Sulfonyl Hydrazides as Thiol Surrogate: a Review. *J. Sulfur Chem.* **2019**, 40, 289-311. (b) Yang, F.-L.; Tian, S.-K. Iodine-Catalyzed Regioselective Sulfenylation of Indoles with Sulfonyl Hydrazides. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 4929-4932.

(11) (a) Shen, C.; Xia, H.; Yan, H.; Chen, X.; Ranjit, S.; Xie, X.; Tan, D.; Lee, R.; Yang, Y.; Xing, B.; Huang, K.-W.; Zhang, P.; Liu, X. A Concise, Efficient Synthesis of Sugar-based Benzothiazoles Through Chemoselective Intramolecular C-S Coupling. Chem. Sci. 2012, 3, 2388-2393. (b) Wang, H.; Wang, L.; Shang, J.; Li, X.; Wang, H.; Gui, J.; Lei, A. Fe-catalysed Oxidative C-H Functionalization/C-S Bond Formation. Chem. Commun. 2012, 48, 76-78. (c) Saravanan, P.; Anbarasan, P. Palladium Catalyzed Aryl(alkyl)thiolation of Unactivated Arenes. Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 848-851. (d) Hostier, T.; Ferey, V.; Ricci, G.; Gomez Pardo, D.; Cossy, J. Synthesis of Aryl Sulfides: Metal-Free C-H Sulfenylation of Electron-Rich Arenes. Org. Lett. 2015, 17, 3898-3901. (e) Mahato, K.; Arora, N.; Ray Bagdi, P.; Gattu, R.; Ghosh, S. S.; Khan, A. T. An Oxidative Cross-coupling Reaction of 4-Hydroxydithiocoumarin and Amines/Thiols Using a Combination of I2 and TBHP: Access to Lead Molecules for Biomedical Applications. Chem. Commun. 2018, 54, 1513-1516. (f) Chaitanya, M.; Anbarasan, P. Lewis Acid/Brønsted Acid Controlled Pd(II)-Catalyzed Chemodivergent Functionalization of C(sp²)-H Bonds with N-(Arylthio)i(a)mides. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 3362-3366. (g) Xiao, F.; Chen, S.; Li, C.; Huang, H.; Deng, G.-J. Copper-Catalyzed Three-Component One-Pot Synthesis of Aryl Sulfides with Sulfur Powder under Aqueous Conditions. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2016, 358, 3881-3886. (h) Nalbandian, C. J.; Brown, Z. E.; Alvarez, E.; Gustafson, J. L. Lewis Base/Bronsted Acid Dual-Catalytic C-H Sulfenylation of Aromatics. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 3211-3214.

(12) (a) Li, C.-J. Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling (CDC): Exploring C-C Bond Formations beyond Functional Group Transformations. Acc. Chem. Res. 2009, 42, 335-344. (b) Allen, S. E.; Walvoord, R. R.; Padilla-Salinas, R.; Kozlowski, M. C. Aerobic Copper-Catalyzed Organic Reactions. Chem. Rev. 2013, 113, 6234-6458. (c) Lee, Y. E.; Cao, T.; Torruellas, C.; Kozlowski, M. C. Selective Oxidative Homo- and Cross-Coupling of Phenols with Aerobic Catalysts. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 6782–6785.

(13) (a) Huang, X.; Chen, Y.; Zhen, S.; Song, L.; Gao, M.; Zhang, P.; Li, H.; Yuan, B.; Yang, G. Cobalt-Catalyzed Aerobic Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling of C-H and Thiols in Water for C-S Formation. J. Org. Chem. **2018**, 83, 7331-7340. (b) Kong, D.; Huang, T.; Liang, M.; Wu, M.; Lin, Q. KIO₃-catalyzed Cross Dehydrogenative Coupling Reaction: Sulfenylation of Phenol and Arylamine Derivatives in Water atRoom Temperature. Org. Biomol. Chem. **2019**, 17, 830-834. (c) Parumala, S. K. R.; Peddinti, R. K. Iodine Catalyzed Cross-Dehydrogenative C-S Coupling by $C(sp^2)$ -H Bond Activation: Direct Access to Aryl Sulfides from Aryl Thiols. Green Chem. **2015**, 17, 4068-4072. (d) Xiao, F.; Tian, J.; Xing, Q.; Huang, H.; Deng, G.-J.; Liu, Y. Piperidine Promoted Direct Sulfenylation of 2-Naphthol with Aryl Thiols under Aqueous Conditions. ChemistrySelect **2017**, 2, 428-431.

(14) Mishra, A. K.; Verma, A.; Biswas, S. Nucleophilic ipso-Substitution of Aryl Methyl Ethers through Aryl C–OMe Bond Cleavage; Access to Functionalized Bisthiophenes. *J. Org. Chem.* **2017**, *82*, 3403–3410.

(15) (a) Ranjit, S.; Lee, R.; Heryadi, D.; Shen, C.; Wu, J. E.; Zhang, P.; Huang, K.-W.; Liu, X. Copper-Mediated C-H Activation/C-S Cross-Coupling of Heterocycles with Thiols. *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, *76*, 8999–9007. (b) Song, Y. M.; Qu, J. P.; Wang, B. M. Iodine-Catalysed Versatile Sulfenylation of Indoles with Thiophenols: Controllable Synthesis of Mono- and Bis-arylthioindoles. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2015**, *71*, 8885–8891.

(16) (a) Yuan, Y.; Cao, Y.; Qiao, J.; Lin, Y.; Jiang, X.; Weng, Y.; Tang, S.; Lei, A. Electrochemical Oxidative C-H Sulfenylation of Imidazopyridines with Hydrogen Evolution. *Chin. J. Chem.* **2019**, *37*, 49–52. (b) Teng, Q.-H.; Yao, Y.; Wei, W.-X.; Tang, H.-T.; Li, J.-R.; Pan, Y.-M. Direct C-H Sulfenylation of Quinoxalinones with Thiols under Visible-light-induced Photocatalyst-free Conditions. *Green Chem.* **2019**, *21*, 6241–6245. For an excellent recent example on dual C-H sulfenylation of imidazoheterocycles with elemental sulfur, see: (c) Guo, T.; Wei, X.-N.; Zhang, M.; Liu, Y.; Zhu, L.-M.; Zhao, Y.-H. Catalyst and Additive-free Oxidative Dual C-H Sulfenylation of Imidazoheterocycles with Elemental Sulfur using DMSO as a Solvent and an Oxidant. *Chem. Commun.* **2020**, *56*, 5751–5754.

(17) Lawrence, S. A. Amines: Synthesis, Properties and Applications; Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2004.

(18) Raghuvanshi, D. S.; Verma, N. Regioselective Thiolation of Electron Rich Arenes and Heterocycles in Recyclable Catalytic Media. *RSC Adv.* **2017**, *7*, 22860–22868.

(19) Tian, H.; Yang, H.; Zhu, C.; Fu, H. Arylthiolation of Arylamine Derivatives with (Arylthio)-pyrrolidine-2,5-diones. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2015**, *357*, 481–488.

(20) Ma, L.-j.; Li, G.-x.; Huang, J.; Zhu, J.; Tang, Z. Synthesis of Asymmetrical Thioethers with Sulfinamides as the Sulfenylation Agent under Metal-free Conditions. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2018**, *59*, 4255–4258.

(21) Fang, X. L.; Tang, R. Y.; Zhang, X. G.; Li, J. H. FeF_3/I_2 -Catalyzed Synthesis of 4-Chalcogen-Substituted Arylamines by Direct Thiolation of an Arene C-H Bond. *Synthesis* **2011**, *7*, 1099–1105.

(22) Zhao, F.; Tan, Q.; Wang, D.; Deng, G.-J. Metal- and Solvent-free Direct C-H Thiolation of Aromatic Compounds with Sulfonyl Chlorides. *Green Chem.* **2020**, *22*, 427–432.

(23) Xiao, F.; Yuan, S.; Wang, D.; Liu, S.; Huang, H.; Deng, G. J. Thioesters as Bifunctional Reagents for 2-Naphthylamine Sulfuracylation. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2019**, *361*, 3331–3336.

(24) Yang, D.; Yan, K.; Wei, W.; Zhao, J.; Zhang, M.; Sheng, X.; Li, G.; Lu, S.; Wang, H. Metal-Free Iodine-Catalyzed Direct Arylthiation of Substituted Anilines with Thiols. *J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, *80*, 6083–6092.

(25) Wang, X.; Cuny, G. D.; Noël, T. A Mild, One-Pot Stadler-Ziegler Synthesis of Arylsulfides Facilitated by Photoredox Catalysis in Batch and Continuous-Flow. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 7860–7864.

(26) Wang, P.; Tang, S.; Huang, P.; Lei, A. Electrocatalytic Oxidant-Free Dehydrogenative C-H/S-H Cross-Coupling. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56*, 3009–3013.

(27) (a) Chen, J.; Meng, H.; Zhang, F.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Transition-metal-free Selective Pyrimidines and Pyridines Formation from Aromatic Ketones, Aldehydes and Ammonium Salts. *Green Chem.* **2019**, *21*, 5201–5206. (b) Chen, J.; Chang, D.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Three-Component Ordered Annulation of Amines, Ketones, and Nitrovinylarenes: Access to Fused Pyrroles and Substituted Indoles under Metal-Free Conditions. *J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, *84*, 568–578. (c) Che, X.; Jiang, J.; Xiao, F.; Huang, H.; Deng, G.-J. Assembly of 2-Arylbenzothiazoles through Three-Component Oxidative Annulation under Transition-Metal-Free Conditions. *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 4576–4579. (d) Chen, J.; Li, G.; Xie, Y.; Liao, Y.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Four-Component Approach to N-Substituted Phenothiazines under Transition-Metal-Free Conditions. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 5870–5873.

(28) (a) Jiang, J.; Huang, H.; Deng, G.-J. Four-Component Thiazole Formation from Simple Chemicals under Metal-free Conditions. Green Chem. 2019, 21, 986-990. (b) Xie, H.; Li, G.; Zhang, F.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Efficient Synthesis of 1,2-Benzisothiazoles from o-Haloarylamidines and Elemental Sulfur via N-S/C-S Bond Formation under Transition-metal-free Conditions. Green Chem. 2018, 20, 827-831. (c) Jiang, J.; Li, G.; Zhang, F.; Xie, H.; Deng, G.-J. Aniline ortho C-H Sulfuration/Cyclization with Elemental Sulfur for Efficient Synthesis of 2-Substituted Benzothiazoles under Metal-Free Conditions. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2018, 360, 1622-1627. (d) Li, G.; Xie, H.; Chen, J.; Guo, Y.; Deng, G.-J. Three-Component Synthesis of 2-Heteroaryl-benzothiazoles under Metal-free Conditions. Green Chem. 2017, 19, 4043-4047. (e) Ni, P.; Li, B.; Huang, H.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Solvent-controlled Highly Regio-selective Thieno [2,3-b]indole Formation under Metal-free Conditions. Green Chem. 2017, 19, 5553-5558. (f) Xie, H.; Cai, J.; Wang, Z.; Huang, H.; Deng, G.-J. A Three-Component Approach to 3,5-Diaryl-1,2,4thiadiazoles under Transition-Metal-Free Conditions. Org. Lett. 2016, 18, 2196-2199.

(29) (a) Liao, Y.; Jiang, P.; Chen, S.; Qi, H.; Deng, G.-J. Iodinecatalyzed Efficient 2-Arylsulfanylphenol Formation from Thiols and Cyclohexanones. *Green Chem.* **2013**, *15*, 3302–3306. (b) Du, H.-A.; Tang, R.-Y.; Deng, C.-L.; Liu, Y.; Li, J.-H.; Zhang, X.-G. Iron-Facilitated Iodine-Mediated Electrophilic Annulation of N, N-Dimethyl-2-alkynylanilines with Disulfides or Diselenides. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2011**, *353*, 2739–2748. (c) Hiebel, M.-A.; Berteina-Raboin, S. Iodine-catalyzed Regioselective Sulfenylation of Imidazoheterocycles in PEG₄₀₀. *Green Chem.* **2015**, *17*, 937–944. (d) Jiang, X.; Shen, Z.; Zheng, C.; Fang, L.; Chen, K.; Yu, C. Flavin/I₂ Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidative C-H Sulfenylation of Anilines. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2020**, *61*, 152141–152145.

(30) Yao, L.; Zhou, Q.; Han, W.; Wei, S. Copper Powder Catalyzed Direct Ring-Opening Arylation of Benzazoles with Aryl Iodides in Polyethylene Glycol. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, 6856–6860.

(31) Karady, S.; Cummins, J. M.; Dannenberg, J. J.; del Rio, E.; Dormer, P. G.; Marcune, B. F.; Reamer, R. A.; Sordo, T. L. Intramolecular Aromatic 1,5-Hydrogen Transfer in Free Radical Reactions III. Reactivity of Diaryl Ketones, Ethers, Thioethers, Sulfoxydes, and Sulfones. An Experimental and Theoretical Study. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 1175–1178.

(32) Rodriguez-Aristegui, S.; Clapham, K. M.; Barrett, L.; Cano, C.; Desage-El Murr, M.; Griffin, R. J.; Hardcastle, I. R.; Payne, S. L.; Rennison, T.; Richardson, C.; Golding, B. T. Versatile Synthesis of Functionalised Dibenzothiophenes via Suzuki Coupling and Micro-wave-assisted Ring Closure. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2011**, *9*, 6066–6074. (33) Liao, Y.; Jiang, P.; Chen, S.; Xiao, F.; Deng, G.-J. Synthesis of Phenothiazines from Cyclohexanones and 2-Aminobenzenethiols under Transition-metal-free Conditions. *RSC Adv.* **2013**, *3*, 18605–18608.

(34) Matsuzawa, T.; Uchida, K.; Yoshida, S.; Hosoya, T. Synthesis of Diverse Phenothiazines by Direct Thioamination of Arynes with S-(*o*-Bromoaryl)-S-methylsulfilimines and Subsequent Intramolecular Buchwald–Hartwig Amination. *Chem. Lett.* **2018**, *47*, 825–828.