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Cu-Catalyzed Generation of Alkyl Radicals from Alkylsilyl Peroxides and Subsequent C(sp³)–C(sp²) Cross-Coupling with Arylboronic Acids

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ABSTRACT: This article describes a novel and practical method for the Cu-catalyzed $C(sp^3)-C(sp^2)$ cross-coupling of alkylsilyl peroxides with arylboronic acids. The reductive cleavage of the O–O bond of alkylsilyl peroxides and the desired cross-coupling reactions to afford alkyl-substituted aromatic rings proceed smoothly at room temperature promoted by simple Cu-based catalysts and do not require activation by visible-light. The results of mechanistic investigations support a radical-mediated $C(sp^3)-C(sp^2)$ bond formation via β -scission of the alkoxy radicals generated from the alkylsilyl peroxides.

The transition-metal-catalyzed formation of carbon-carbon bonds is one of the most important reactions in organic synthesis.¹ Among these, Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling (SMC) reactions represent some of the most powerful and reliable coupling reactions, especially in academic and industrial pharmaceutical research,² which generally provide $C(sp^2)$ - $C(sp^2)$ -coupled products. Although Pd-catalyzed SMC reactions have been extensively studied and are now wellestablished, further efforts have recently been dedicated to catalysts based on other metals such as Ni³, Cu⁴, Fe⁵ as these are more cost-effective and abundant than Pd catalysts. When considering these factors, catalysts based on Cu seem to be the most suitable among this group for SMC reactions. However, the number of papers published on Cu-catalyzed SMC reactions,⁴ especially $C(sp^3)$ – $C(sp^2)$ -coupling reactions, is low compared to those on Pd- or Ni-catalyzed SMC reactions. In this context, we considered that the development of reliable Cu-catalyzed C(sp³)-C(sp²) SMC reactions would be highly desirable.6

The reaction pattern of Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions can be divided into two major categories according to the pathways they follow: (a) A non-radical catalysis, and (b) a radical catalysis^{4j,7} (Figure 1). The non-radical catalysis, along which conventional Pd-catalyzed SMC reactions proceed, consists of the following steps: (i) Oxidative addition of the C-X bond to Cu^n to afford C- Cu^{n+2} -X, (ii) transmetalation between C-Cun+2-X and an organoboronic species to form a C-Cuⁿ⁺²-C intermediate, and (iii) reductive elimination from this intermediate to give the desired C-Ccoupled product under concomitant regeneration of the Cuⁿ catalyst (Figure 1a). On the other hand, the radical catalysis includes the following steps: (iv) Single-electron-transfer (SET) from Cuⁿ to the C-X bond to generate a carbon radical and Cu^{n+1} species followed by (v) a metal-radical coupling (Figure 1b). So far, various examples of Cu-catalyzed crosscoupling reactions that via proceed the



Figure 1. (a) A Non-Radical Catalysis. (b) A Radical Catalysis. (This Work) (c) Our Previous Studies.

non-radical catalysis have been reported,^{4h} but radicalmediated coupling reactions in the absence of visible light⁷ remain scarce, as the Cu catalyst can be expected to play two different roles:^{4j} (i) Single-electron donor to generate radical species without activation by visible-light,⁸ and (ii) mediator in the cross-coupling step to form a new C–C bond. Therefore, we sought to design novel highly practical Cu-catalyzed SMC reactions that proceed under mild conditions via a radical process.

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In order to generate $C(sp^3)$ -radicals, β -scission of alkoxy radicals, which are usually generated from alkanols under strongly oxidative conditions, has emerged as one of the most reliable methods.⁹ However, the strong oxidants employed may limit the choice of solvent and/or the functional-group tolerance. On the other hand, we have recently reported the successful generation of alkyl radicals from alkylsilyl peroxides 1 under mildly reductive conditions (reductive β scission strategy) by using Cu catalysts, and its applications to

Table 1. Optimizing the Reaction Conditions for the Cu-Catalyzed Coupling of 1a and 2a.^{*a*}



^{*d*}Reactions were carried out in the presence of **1a** (0.3 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), metal catalyst (5 mol%), **L** (5 mol%) and K₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) for 6 h under an atmosphere of argon. ^{*b*}The yield of **3a** was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as the internal standard. ^cIsolated yield is given in parenthese. ^{*d*}Isolated yield on the gram-scale reaction in the brackets. ^{*e*}See Supporting Information for details.



C(sp³)–N, C(sp³)–O, C(sp³)–C(sp), C(sp³)–B and C(sp³)–Si bond formations (Figure 1c).^{10a–d} Alkylsilyl peroxides were synthesized from corresponding alcohols or olefins,¹¹ bench stable and easily handled. In the present study, we hypothesized that our reductive β -scission strategy could also be applicable to radical-mediated C(sp³)–C(sp²) crosscoupling reactions, i.e., novel Cu-catalyzed SMC reactions that employ arylboronic acids.

To test our hypothesis, we optimized the conditions of the Cu-catalyzed reaction between cyclic alkylsilyl peroxide 1a, (4-fluorophenyl)boronic acid (2a) and K_2CO_3 (Table 1). Firstly, we confirmed the necessity of the presence of a Cu catalyst in this reaction, and found that CuI promoted the cleavage of the O-O bond of alkylsilyl peroxide 1a to afford the desired product 3a in 12% yield at room temperature (entries 1 and 2). Secondly, we investigated potentially effective ligands for this coupling reaction and discovered that bipyridine (L1) furnished 3a in excellent yield (95%; entry 3). This method was applicable to the gram-scale reaction, and 3a was obtained in 91% yield. Using electron-rich (L2; entry 4) or -poor bipyridine derivatives (L3; entry 5) afforded 3a in 57% and 61% yield, respectively, while 1,10-phenanthroline (L4; entry 6) furnished 3a in 89% yield. We also tested a Nheterocyclic carbene (NHC)-ligated Cu complex (IMesCuCl) as the catalyst, but the yield of 3a decreased to 15% (entry 7). Additionally, the Cu^{II} salt $Cu(acac)_2$ was not suitable as a catalyst (entry 8). When reducing the amount of 1a or using arylboronic ester 2a' instead of 2a, 3a was obtained in moderate yield (entries 9 and 10). The reaction did not proceed without K₂CO₃ (entry 11), and toluene, which is generally considered a good solvent for SMC reactions, ^{2i,3e,4d} was not effective in this reaction (entry 12). Other metal catalysts such as Ni³ or Fe⁵ salts did not promote this reaction (entry 13, see the Supporting Information for details).

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, we subsequently examined the scope of this reaction with respect to alkylsilyl peroxide substrates 1 (Table 2). The use of sixand seven-membered cycloalkylsilyl peroxides 1b-c furnished the corresponding products 3b-c in acceptable yields. Methylsubstituted five-membered cycloalkylsilyl peroxide 1d and bicycloalkylsilyl peroxide 1e, the latter of which is derived from the corresponding norbornene derivative, furnished the desired products 3d-e in high yields with high regioselectivities. Additionally, the selective transfer of secondary alkyl groups such as the cyclohexyl or tetrahydropyranyl moiety from 1f and 1g were also possible, and 3f and 3g were obtained in excellent yields. When alkylsilyl peroxide 1h was used as a methylating agent, the desired product 3h was not detected, and only 2-(4fluorophenyl)tetrahydrofuran 3h' was obtained in moderate yield.¹² We considered this result would indicate that the phenyl-moiety on alkylsilyl peroxides effectively promoted βscission step because thermodynamically more stable aromatic ketones were formed than aliphatic ketones, and tested its effect as shown in Scheme 1. As expected, a desired product 4a was obtained in better yield when using 1i than 1j in the reaction with 2b.

We then examined the scope with respect to arylboronic acids 2c-t in the reactions with alkylsilyl peroxide 1a (Table 3). The reactions using phenylboronic acid and 2-naphthylboronic acid afforded the corresponding products 3i-j in 80% and 55% yield, respectively. Subsequently, we tested

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Scheme 1. Effect of Ph-Group on Alkylsilyl Peroxide



Table 3. Scope with Respect to Arylboronic Acids 2.^a



^aThe reactions were carried out in the presence of **1a** (0.3 mmol), **2** (0.2 mmol), CuI (5 mol%), **L1** (5 mol%) and K_2CO_3 (0.2 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) for 6 h under an atmosphere of argon.

para-substituted arylboronic acid derivatives, and a variety of aryl groups that contain electron-donating or electronwithdrawing substituents successfully furnished the corresponding products $3\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{r}$ in moderate to excellent yields (50–94%). *Meta*- and *ortho*-substituted arylboronic acids were also applicable to this reaction, which afforded $3\mathbf{s}-\mathbf{x}$ in good to high yields (41–95%). Moreover, heteroaromatic boronic acids furnished $3\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{z}$ in 79% and 85% yield, respectively.

In order to better understand the underlying reaction mechanism and to confirm the radical process of this reaction, a control experiment was carried out (Scheme 2). For that purpose, we synthesized the new alkylsilyl peroxide 1k, which contains a cyclopropylmethyl moiety, and used it for the reaction with 2u. As expected, the radical clock reaction proceeded smoothly and the desired coupling product 4b was obtained in 41% yield, while the formation of 4c was not detected (Scheme 2a). And also, the addition of BHT (2,6-*tert*-butyl-*p*-cresol) as a radical-inhibitor under standard conditions inhibited the reaction between 1a and 2a (Scheme 2b).

Furthermore, the synthetic utility of this approach was demonstrated by the reaction of alkylsilyl peroxide **1a** with estrone-derived 3-deoxyestrone-3-boronic acid (**2v**) which afforded the desired $C(sp^2)$ - $C(sp^3)$ -coupling product **4d** in 82% yield (Scheme 3).

Scheme 2. Control Experiments



Scheme 3. Application using an Estrone Derivative



In conclusion, we have developed a Cu-catalyzed C(sp³)– C(sp²) cross-coupling reaction of alkylsilyl peroxides with arylboronic acids that proceeds via a radical process. At room temperature, the reaction smoothly affords alkyl-substituted aromatic rings. Further investigations into the applications of such a reductive β -scission strategy to alkylsilyl peroxides for the formation of carbon–carbon or carbon–heteroatom bonds, and applications to enantioselective reactions are currently progress in our laboratory.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Information. ¹H-NMR spectra were measured on JEOL JNM-ECA500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Data were reported as follows: chemical shifts in ppm from tetramethylsilane as an internal standard in CDCl₃, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet-doublet, dt = doublet-triplet, dq = doublet-quartet, td = triplet-doublet, m = multiplet, app = apparent), coupling constants (Hz), and assignment. ¹³C-NMR spectra were measured on JEOL JNM-ECA500 (125 MHz) spectrometer with complete proton decoupling (¹³C{¹H}). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from the residual solvent as an internal standard (77.16 ppm). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on Thermo Exactive plus (ESI, quadrupole)

spectrometer or Bruker micrOTOF II (APCI) spectrometer. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IRPrestige-21 spectrometer. For thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis throughout this work, Merck precoated TLC plates (Merck, TLC Silica-gel 60 F_{254}) were used. The products were purified by flash column chromatography (Kanto Chemical Co., Inc., Silica-gel 60 N, spherical, neutral, 40-50 µm) or preparative thin layer chromatography silica-gel (Merck, PLC Silica-gel 60 F_{254} . 0.5 mm). Commercially available reagents and solvents were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako, Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, and used as received. Alkylsilyl peroxides **1** were prepared according to the literate procedures.^{10a-d}

Triethyl((3-phenylpentan-3-yl)peroxy)silane (1i). Synthesized from 3-phenylpentan-3-ol on 50 mmol scale. Colorless oil. 4.08 g, 28% over 2 steps. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, **CDCl₃**) δ 7.32-7.28 (4H, m), 7.22-7.19 (1H, m), 2.02 (2H, td, J = 14.3, 7.1 Hz), 1.83 (2H, td, J = 14.3, 7.1 Hz), 1.01-0.98 (9H, m), 0.75-0.70 (12H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, **CDCl₃**) δ 143.2, 127.8, 126.4, 126.2, 88.5, 29.2, 8.00, 7.00, 4.00; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₇H₃₀O₂NaSi: *m/z* 317.1907 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 317.1906 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2956, 1458, 867, 728 cm⁻¹.

((2-Cyclopropyl-1,1-

diphenylethyl)peroxy)trimethylsilane (1k). Synthesized from 2-cyclopropyl-1,1-diphenylethan-1-ol on 30 mmol scale. Colorless oil. 4.62 g, 47% over 2 steps. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.31 (4H, m), 7.28-7.25 (4H, m), 7.24-7.20 (2H, m), 2.35 (2H, d, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.66-0.58 (1H, m), 0.26-0.22 (2H, m), 0.08 (9H, s), -0.12 (2H, td, J = 5.2, 4.3 Hz); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4, 127.8, 127.5, 126.9, 89.3, 41.5, 6.2, 4.8, -1.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₆O₂NaSi: m/z349.1594 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 349.1593 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2959, 1249, 841, 695 cm⁻¹.

General Procedure for Cu-Catalyzed $C(sp^3)-C(sp^2)$ **Cross-Coupling of Alkylsilyl Peroxides 1 with Arylboronic** Acids 2. To a solution of CuI (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), 2,2'-bipyridine (L1, 1.6 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), arylboronic acid 2 (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (1.0 mL) was added alkylsilyl peroxide 1 (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After being stirred at room temperature for 6 h under argon atmosphere, the reaction mixture was passed through a short silica-gel / Na₂SO₄ plug to remove inorganic salts, eluting with a solution of EtOAc / hexane (1/3). The obtained solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica-gel (EtOAc / hexane = 1 / 8) to afford following products. [Gram-scale reaction was carried out on 5.0 mmol scale, using **1a** (1.25 g, 7.5 mmol) and **2a** (0.7 g, 5.0 mmol). The product **3a** was obtained in 91% yield (1.17 g).]

5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3a). Colorless oil. 48.7 mg, 95%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.14-7.12 (2H, m), 6.98-6.94 (2H, m), 2.99 (2H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.64 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.81-1.75 (2H, m), 1.72-1.66 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling)** δ 200.2, 161.3 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 243.2 Hz), 137.9 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 2.4 Hz), 137.1, 133.0, 129.8 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 7.2 Hz), 128.7, 128.1, 115.1 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 20.3 Hz), 38.4, 35.1, 31.3, 23.9; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈OF: *m/z* 257.1336 ([M + H]⁺), Found: *m/z* 257.1336 ([M + H]⁺); **IR (neat)** 2934, 1683, 1508, 1219 cm⁻¹.

6-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenylhexan-1-one (**3b**). White solid. 19.5 mg, 36%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.94

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(2H, m), 7.56 (1H, app t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.11 (2H, app dd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz), 6.95 (2H, app t, J = 8.8 Hz), 2.96 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.60 (2H, t, J = 7.8 Hz), 1.80-1.74 (2H, m), 1.68-1.62 (2H, m), 1.44-1.38 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling) δ 200.5, 161.3 (d, $J_{C-F} =$ 242.0 Hz), 138.2 (d, $J_{C-F} = 3.6$ Hz), 137.2, 133.1, 129.8 (d, $J_{C-F} =$ 8.3 Hz), 128.7, 128.2, 115.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 20.3$ Hz), 38.6, 35.1, 31.6, 29.0, 24.2; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉OFNa: m/z293.1312 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 293.1313 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR** (neat) 2931, 1684, 1508, 1219 cm⁻¹.

7-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenylheptan-1-one (3c). Colorless oil. 37.5 mg, 66%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.11 (2H, app dq, J = 11.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.97-6.92 (2H, m), 2.96 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.57 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.77-1.71 (2H, m), 1.64-1.57 (2H, m), 1.44-1.33 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling) δ 200.6, 161.3 (d, $J_{C-F} = 243.2$ Hz), 138.4 (d, $J_{C-F} = 2.4$ Hz), 137.2, 133.1, 129.8 (d, $J_{C-F} = 8.3$ Hz), 128.7, 128.2, 115.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 21.5$ Hz), 38.7, 35.2, 31.6, 29.3, 29.1, 24.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂OF: *m/z* 285.1649 ([M + H]⁺), Found: *m/z* 285.1650 ([M + H]⁺); IR (neat) 2930, 1684, 1508, 1219 cm⁻¹.

5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenylhexan-1-one (3d). White solid. 46.0 mg, 85%. ¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.91-7.90 (2H, m), 7.55 (1H, app t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.47-7.43 (2H, m), 7.15-7.12 (2H, m), 6.97 (2H, app t, J = 8.6 Hz), 2.94-2.90 (2H, m), 2.73 (1H, m), 1.71-1.57 (4H, m), 1.24 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling)** δ 200.3, 161.3 (d, J_{C-F} = 243.2 Hz), 143.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 2.4 Hz), 137.1, 133.1, 128.7, 128.4 (d, J_{C-F} = 8.3 Hz), 128.1, 115.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 20.3 Hz), 39.4, 38.6, 38.1, 22.6, 22.5; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉OFNa: *m/z* 293.1312 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 293.1313 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 2958, 1683, 1508, 1221 cm⁻¹.

2-(3-(4-Fluorophenyl)cyclopentyl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3e). Colorless oil. 51.4 mg, 91%. A 1:1 diastereomeric mixture. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 1:1 diastereomeric mixture) δ 7.98-7.96 (4H, m), 7.58-7.55 (2H, m), 7.49-7.45 (4H, m), 7.19-7.16 (4H, m), 6.96 (4H, app t, J = 8.6 Hz), 3.19-3.03 (6H, m), 2.77-2.71 (1H, m), 2.62 (1H, dt, J = 17.5, 6.9 Hz), 2.35-2.30 (1H, m), 2.16-2.04 (4H, m), 1.99-1.93 (1H, m), 1.83-1.77 (1H, m), 1.72-1.59 (2H, m), 1.53-1.45 (1H, m), 1.41-1.26 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling, 1:1 diastereomeric mixture) δ 200.1 (2C), 161.3 (d, $J_{C-F} = 243.2 \text{ Hz}$, 161.2 (d, $J_{C-F} = 243.2 \text{ Hz}$), 141.8 (d, $J_{C-F} =$ 68.0 Hz), 141.8 (d, J_{C-F} = 68.0 Hz), 137.3 (2C), 137.2, 133.1 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.4 (d, $J_{C-F} = 7.2$ Hz), 128.4 (d, $J_{C-F} = 7.2$ Hz), 128.2 (2C), 115.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 20.3$ Hz), 45.5, 45.1, 45.0, 43.8, 42.3, 40.5, 35.9, 35.3, 35.1, 33.5, 33.4, 32.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{19}OFNa$: m/z 305.1312 ($[M + Na]^+$), Found: m/z 305.1311 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 2945, 1683, 1509, 1219 cm^{-1} .

1-Cyclohexyl-4-fluorobenzene (3f). Purified by flash column chromatography on silica-gel (hexane). White solid. 33.2 mg, 93%. Spectral data matched those reported in the literature.¹³

4-(4-Fluorophenyl)tetrahydro-2*H***-pyran (3g).** Colorless oil. 34.6 mg, 96%. Spectral data matched those reported in the literature.¹⁴

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)tetrahydrofuran (3h'). Colorless oil. 11.6 mg, 35%. Spectral data matched those reported in the literature.¹⁵

1,5-Diphenylpentan-1-one (3i). Colorless oil. 38.1 mg, 80%. Spectral data matched those reported in the literature.¹⁶

5-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3j). Colorless oil. 31.7 mg, 55%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.83-7.75 (3H, m), 7.62 (1H, app s), 7.56-7.55 (1H, m), 7.47-7.39 (4H, m), 7.34 (1H, app dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz), 3.01 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.84 (2H, t, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.86-1.80 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.4, 139.9, 137.1, 133.7, 133.0, 132.1, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 126.49, 126.0, 125.2, 38.5, 36.1, 31.1, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₁H₂₀ONa: *m/z* 311.1406 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 311.1407 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2934, 1683, 1222, 748 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)**pentan-1-one (3k).** White solid. 38.4 mg, 76%. ¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.94 (2H, app d, J = 7.1 Hz), 7.54 (1H, app d, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.45 (2H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.08 (4H, app s), 2.98 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.63 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.31 (3H, s), 1.78 (2H, m), 1.71-1.68 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 200.5, 139.3, 137.2, 135.3, 133.1, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 38.6, 35.5, 31.4, 24.1, 21.1; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀ONa: *m/z* 275.1406 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 275.1407 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 2945, 1683, 1509, 1219 cm⁻¹.

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (31). White solid. 40.3 mg, 75%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.53 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.10 (2H, app d, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.82 (2H, app dd, J = 6.7, 2.1 Hz), 3.78 (3H, s), 2.98 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.61 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.81-1.75 (2H, m), 1.71-1.65 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.5, 157.8, 137.2, 134.5, 133.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.2, 113.9, 55.4, 38.5, 35.0, 31.5, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀O₂Na: m/z 291.1356 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 291.1356 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2925, 1734, 1683, 732 cm⁻¹.

5-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3m). Colorless oil. 33.0 mg, 50%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.94 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.33-7.29 (2H, m), 7.14 (2H, app dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz), 7.09-7.05 (1H, m), 6.99-6.97 (2H, m), 6.93 (2H, app dt, J = 9.1, 2.4 Hz), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.65 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.84-1.78 (2H, m), 1.74-1.69 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.4, 157.8, 155.2, 137.4, 137.2, 133.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.7, 128.2, 123.0, 119.2, 118.6, 38.5, 35.2, 31.3, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₂O₂Na: *m/z* 353.1512 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 353.1515 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2933, 1685, 1488, 1233, cm⁻¹.

5-(4-(Methylthio)phenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3n). Colorless oil. 42.1 mg, 74%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.20-7.18 (2H, m), 7.11 (2H, app d, J = 8.5 Hz), 2.98 (2H, t, J =7.1 Hz), 2.63 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.46 (3H, s), 1.82-1.76 (2H, m), 1.72-1.66 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.5, 139.6, 137.1, 135.3, 133.1, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 127.3, 38.5, 35.4, 31.2, 24.0, 16.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀ONaS: *m/z* 307.1127 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 307.1129 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 2921, 1683, 1457, 690 cm⁻¹.

5-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (30). Colorless oil. 52.0 mg, 82%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (2H, app dd, J = 7.8, 0.7 Hz), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.46 (2H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.39 (2H, app d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.06 (2H, app d, J = 8.5 Hz), 2.98 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.62 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.81-1.75 (2H, m), 1.72-1.66 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.2, 141.3, 137.1, 133.1, 131.5, 130.3, 128.7, 128.1, 119.6, 38.4, 35.3, 31.0, 23.9; HRMS (ESI)

Calcd. for $C_{17}H_{17}OBrNa: m/z$ 339.0355 ($[M + Na]^+$), Found: m/z 339.0358 ($[M + Na]^+$); **IR (neat)** 2933, 1683, 1488, 690 cm⁻¹.

Methyl 4-(5-Oxo-5-phenylpentyl)benzoate (3p). White solid. 46.8 mg, 79%. Product **3o** was purified by flash column chromatography on silica-gel (EtOAc / hexane = 1 / 6). ¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.95-7.93 (4H, m), 7.56 (1H, app t, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.25-7.24 (2H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.72 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.83-1.70 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 200.2, 167.2, 147.9, 137.1, 133.1, 129.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 52.1, 38.4, 36.0, 30.9, 24.0; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀O₃Na: m/z 319.1305 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 319.1307 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 1717, 1684, 1280, 730 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentan-1-one

(3q). Colorless oil. 57.6 mg, 94%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.52 (3H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.29 (2H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 6.9 Hz), 2.73 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.83-1.70 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling) δ 200.2, 146.5, 137.1, 133.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 125.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 3.6$ Hz), 124.5 (app d, $J_{C-F} = 270.6$ Hz), 38.4, 35.8, 30.9, 23.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₇OF₃Na: m/z 329.1124 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 329.1127 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1684, 1324, 1120, 1067 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)pentan-1-one

(3r). Colorless oil. 50.3 mg, 78%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.20-7.18 (2H, m), 7.12 (2H, app d, J = 8.2 Hz), 2.99 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.83-1.77 (2H, m), 1.74-1.68 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.2, 147.5 (2C), 141.1, 137.1, 133.1, 129.7, 128.7, 128.2, 121.0, 38.4, 35.3, 31.1, 23.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₇O₂F₃Na: m/z 345.1073 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 345.1075 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1684, 1255, 1218, 1156 cm⁻¹.

5-(3,5-Dichlorophenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3s). Colorless oil. 57.1 mg, 93%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.94 (2H, m), 7.58-7.55 (1H, m), 7.48-7.45 (2H, m), 7.18 (1H, app t, J = 2.0 Hz), 7.07 (2H, app d, J = 2.0 Hz), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.63 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.79 (2H, m), 1.73-1.67 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.1, 145.7, 137.0, 134.8, 133.2, 128.7, 128.1, 127.1, 126.2, 38.3, 35.4, 30.7, 23.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆OCl₂Na: m/z329.0470 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 329.0472 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1684, 1565, 1217, 796 cm⁻¹.

5-(3-Nitrophenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3t). Yellow oil. 30.0 mg, 53%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06-8.04 (2H, m), 7.96-7.94 (2H, m), 7.58-7.55 (1H, m), 7.51 (1H, app t, J =8.4 Hz), 7.48-7.42 (3H, m), 3.02 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.79 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.85-1.74 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.0, 148.5, 144.3, 137.0, 134.9, 133.2, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 123.3, 121.2, 38.3, 35.6, 30.8, 23.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₇O₃NNa: *m/z* 306.1101 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 306.1103 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1734, 1521, 1350, 1217 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(*o*-tolyl)pentan-1-one (3u). Colorless oil. 45.9 mg, 91%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (2H, app dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.46 (2H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.15-7.08 (4H, m), 3.01 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.66 (2H, t, J = 7.9 Hz), 2.31 (3H, s), 1.87-1.81 (2H, m), 1.70-1.64 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.4, 140.5, 137.2, 135.9, 133.0, 130.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 126.0, 126.0, 38.5, 33.3, 30.0, 24.4, 19.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀ONa:

m/z 275.1406 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 275.1405 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 1734, 1684, 1217, 740 cm⁻¹.

5-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3v). White solid. 22.0 mg, 41%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.94 (2H, m), 7.55 (1H, app t, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.45 (2H, app t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.17 (1H, app t, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.14 (1H, app d, J = 7.7 Hz), 6.87 (1H, app t, J = 7.4 Hz), 6.84 (1H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 3.81 (3H, s), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.83-1.77 (2H, m), 1.71-1.65 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.8, 157.6, 137.3, 133.0, 130.8, 129.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.1, 120.5, 110.4, 55.4, 38.6, 30.1, 29.7, 24.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀O₂Na: *m/z* 291.1356 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR (neat)** 1734, 1684, 1363, 1240 cm⁻¹.

5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3w). Colorless oil. 48.7 mg, 95%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (2H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.55 (1H, app t, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.46 (2H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.20-7.14 (2H, m), 7.05 (1H, app t, J =7.2 Hz), 7.01-6.98 (1H, m), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.70 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.84-1.78 (2H, m), 1.75-1.69 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling) δ 200.3, 161.2 (d, $J_{C-F} =$ = 244.4 Hz), 137.1, 133.0, 130.7 (d, $J_{C-F} = 4.8$ Hz), 129.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 15.5$ Hz), 128.7, 128.1, 127.6 (d, $J_{C-F} = 8.3$ Hz), 124.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 3.6$ Hz), 115.3 (d, $J_{C-F} = 22.7$ Hz), 38.4, 29.9, 28.9, 24.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₇OFNa: m/z 279.1156 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 279.1158 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1684, 1490, 1227, 754 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentan-1-one (3x). Colorless oil. 42.9 mg, 70%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (2H, app dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz), 7.61 (1H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.48-7.44 (3H, m), 7.34 (1H, app d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.28 (1H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 3.02 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.84 (2H, t, J = 7.9 Hz), 1.89-1.83 (2H, m), 1.76-1.69 (2H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, C-F coupling) δ 200.2, 141.2, 137.2, 133.1, 131.8, 131.1, 128.7, 128.5 (app d, $J_{C-F} = 29.8$ Hz), 128.2, 126.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 7.2$ Hz), 126.0, 38.4, 32.6, 31.4, 24.3, one peak was not detected due to C-F coupling; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₇OF₃Na: m/z 329.1124 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 329.1126 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1684, 1331, 1113, 768 cm⁻¹.

5-(Benzofuran-2-yl)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3y). Colorless oil. 44.0 mg, 79%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.94 (2H, m), 7.55 (1H, app t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.48-7.44 (3H, m), 7.40 (1H, app d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.21-7.15 (2H, m), 6.41 (1H, s), 3.03 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.84 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.88-1.85 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.1, 159.1, 154.8, 137.1, 133.1, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 123.3, 122.5, 120.4, 110.8, 102.2, 38.3, 28.5, 27.5, 23.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈O₂Na: *m/z* 301.1199 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: *m/z* 301.1200 ([M + Na]⁺); IR (neat) 1734, 1684, 1455, 730 cm⁻¹.

1-Phenyl-5-(9-phenyl-9*H***-carbazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (3z).** Colorless oil. 66.2 mg, 85%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (1H, app d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.03 (1H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.93-7.91 (2H, m), 7.61 (2H, app t, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.57-7.52 (3H, m), 7.45 (3H, app dt, J = 20.9, 7.7 Hz), 7.37-7.36 (2H, m), 7.26-7.24 (1H, m), 7.20 (1H, app s), 7.13 (1H, app d, J = 7.9 Hz), 2.98 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.80 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.84-1.73 (4H, m); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.4, 141.4, 141.1, 140.9, 137.9, 137.2, 133.0, 130.0, 128.7, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 125.5, 123.5, 121.5, 120.9, 120.2, 120.1, 119.9, 109.8, 109.4, 38.5, 36.7, 31.8, 24.2; HRMS (APCI) Calcd. for

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 $C_{29}H_{25}ON: m/z \ 404.2009 \ ([M + H]^+), Found: m/z \ 404.1999 \ ([M + H]^+); IR (neat) \ 1734, 1684, 1458, 1232 \ cm^{-1}.$

Control Experiments. Radical Clock Experiment: To a solution of CuI (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), 2,2'-bipyridine (L1, 1.6 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylboronic acid (2u) (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (1.0 mL) was added alkylsilyl peroxide 1k (98.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After being stirred at room temperature for 6 h under argon atmosphere, the reaction mixture was passed through a short silica-gel / Na₂SO₄ plug to remove inorganic salts, eluting with hexane. The obtained solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica-gel (hexane) to afford 4-(but-3-en-1-yl)-1,1'-biphenyl (4b) as a colorless oil (17.0 mg, 41%. Spectral data macthed those reported in the literature.¹⁷) without any detection of 4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (4c). Reaction with BHT: To a solution of CuI (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), 2,2'bipyridine (L1, 1.6 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), arylboronic acid 2a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K₂CO₃ (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and BHT (2,6-tert-butyl-p-cresol, 220 mg, 1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (1.0 mL) was added alkylsilyl peroxide 1a (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After being stirred at room temperature for 6 h under argon atmosphere, the reaction mixture was passed through a short silica-gel / Na₂SO₄ plug to remove inorganic salts, eluting with a solution of EtOAc / hexane (1 / 3). The obtained solution was concentrated and the vield of **3a** was determined by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as the internal standard.

Application using Estrone Derivative. 3-Deoxyestrne-3boronic acid (2v) was prepared from estrone, followed by reported literatures.¹⁸ To a solution of CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%), 2,2'-bipyridine (L1, 8.0 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%), 2t (300 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (138 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (5.0 mL) was added alkylsilyl peroxide 1a (376 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After being stirred at room temperature for 6 h under argon atmosphere, the reaction mixture was passed through a short silica-gel / Na₂SO₄ plug to remove inorganic salts, eluting with a solution of EtOAc / hexane (1 / 3). The obtained solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica-gel (EtOAc / hexane = 1 / 5) to afford a desired product 4d as a white solid (342 mg, 82%).

(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-13-Methyl-3-(5-oxo-5-phenylpentyl)-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17*H*-

cyclopenta[*a*]**phenanthren-17-one (4d).** White solid. ¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.95-7.94 (2H, m), 7.57-7.54 (1H, m), 7.46 (2H, app t, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 6.98 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 6.93 (1H, app s), 2.99 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.88 (2H, m), 2.61 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.50 (1H, m), 2.44-2.40 (1H, m), 2.28 (1H, m), 2.18-2.10 (1H, m), 2.08-1.99 (2H, m), 1.97-1.93 (1H, m), 1.83-1.77 (2H, m), 1.73-1.67 (2H, m), 1.65-1.59 (2H, m), 1.55-1.41 (4H, m), 0.90 (3H, s); ¹³C{¹H} **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 221.1, 200.4, 139.8, 137.2, 137.1, 136.4, 133.0, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 125.9, 125.4, 50.6, 48.1, 44.4, 38.5, 38.3, 36.0, 35.3, 31.7, 31.2, 29.5, 26.7, 25.8, 24.1, 21.7, 13.9; **HRMS (ESI)** Calcd. for C₂₉H₃₄O₂Na: m/z437.2451 ([M + Na]⁺), Found: m/z 437.2452 ([M + Na]⁺); **IR** (**neat)** 2929, 1735, 1684, 1217 cm⁻¹.

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI:

Further reaction optimizations and 1H and $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR spectra (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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