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#### Article

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J. Org. Chem., Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.6b00508 • Publication Date (Web): 26 May 2016

Downloaded from http://pubs.acs.org on June 3, 2016

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## Photochemical Cleavage of Benzylic C-N Bond to Release Amines

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**ABSTRACT** The 3-diethylaminobenzyl (DEABn) group has been studied for releasing primary, secondary, and tertiary amines by direct photochemical breaking of the benzylic C-N bond. While photochemical release of primary and secondary amines provide high yields in methanol, release of tertiary amines in MeCN/water can improve yields and reduce the undesired dealkylation side reaction.

#### INTRODUCTION

Photochemical removal of protecting groups utilizes light as a traceless reagent in the chemical process. This approach is attractive to a wide range of research areas due to the unique advantages it offers.<sup>1-11</sup> Growing interests in using photolabile protecting groups (PPG) in basic and applied research has generated an increasing demand for more PPGs to complement existing ones. The past several

decades have witnessed tremendous efforts in developing new PPGs and creative applications of PPGs. Despite the progress, efficient, fast, and direct release of amines remains challenging.<sup>1</sup> There are only a few examples of directly releasing amines photochemically, for instance, from phenacyl anilinium salts,<sup>12-14</sup> or in the photochemical reaction of generating *o*-quinone methides.<sup>15,16</sup>

We have recently demonstrated that the 3-dimethylamino-trityl (DMATr) aminium salts release simple primary amines in both organic and aqueous solutions.<sup>17</sup> Most recently, Literak, Klan, and coworkers have conducted detailed studies on release of various primary, secondary, and tertiary amines from their corresponding 4-hydroxyphenacyl (pHP) aminium salts in aqueous solutions.<sup>18</sup> The pH of irradiated solutions plays a pivotal role in the amine-release process from pHP. While the pHP group is effective for elementary primary and secondary aliphatic amines at or below physiological pH, release of tertiary amines seems to be problematic.

We have recently reported that 3-diethylaminobenzyl group (DEABn),<sup>19</sup> which was designed on the basis of the excited state meta effect,<sup>20-23</sup> released various alcohols (including primary, secondary, and tertiary alcohols) efficiently in high chemical yields (Scheme 1). Thus starting with commercially available 3-aminobenzyl alcohol **1**, it takes two steps to synthesize the PPG reagent **2** (DEABn-Cl). Its reaction with alcohol ROH results in the corresponding ether **3** ( $\epsilon_{308nm}$  (MeCN) = 2900 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) in high yields. UV irradiation can release primary, secondary, and tertiary alcohols from DEABn protection in high chemical and photochemical efficiencies. The DEABn PPG differs from the known 3,5-dimethoxy-benzyl (DMBn) PPG which was also based on the meta effect.<sup>24</sup> The latter is known for only releasing good leaving groups such as carboxylate, carbonate, and carbamate. Herein we demonstrate a new photochemical reaction if DEABn that can release amines (including primary, secondary, and tertiary amines) effectively.

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<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, EtI, 69%; (b) SOCl<sub>2</sub>, 98%; (c) NaH, Bu<sub>4</sub>NI, ROH, 86-98%; (d) hu, 81-98%

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

With the PPG reagent diethylaminobenzyl chloride (DEABn-Cl, 2), the PPG was installed onto the primary and secondary amines (4a-e) under mild conditions to provide the caged amine 5a-e (Table 1). For primary and secondary amines, the release of amines can take place in methanol. For example, irradiation of 5a in CD<sub>3</sub>OD for 8 min led to 4a being released in 30% yield along with 56% un-reacted 5a.<sup>25</sup> Irradiation for 15 min resulted in a complex mixture; the amine 4a was released in a lower yield along with some un-identified byproducts in spite of the increased conversion of 5a to 73%. The photoreaction of 5a in other solvents (such as acetonitrile, acetonitrile/water, and DMSO) did not produce better results than in methanol. However, we noticed that there was a difference in the reaction efficiency in deuterium solvent and in protium solvent. While the conversion of 5a in CD<sub>3</sub>OD was 73%, it increased to 90% in CH<sub>3</sub>OH under the same irradiation conditions. This solvent isotope effect suggests that photochemical cleavage of the C-N bond is probably facilitated by stabilizing the partially negative charge developed at the nitrogen atom through hydrogen bonding with solvent molecules in the transition state. Based on this hypothesis, we infer that addition of a protonic acid should facilitate photocleavage of the C-N bond by converting the poor amide leaving group into a better amine leaving group through protonation.

Table 1. Photochemical Cleavage of C-N Bond to Release Primary and Secondary Amines



<sup>a</sup>The amine **4**, PPG reagent **2**, NaI, and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in acetone at 40-50 °C. <sup>b</sup>The amine **4a**, PPG reagent **2**, and Bu<sub>4</sub>NI in DCM/DMF at 35 °C. <sup>c</sup>A 5.0 mM solution in the presence of AcOH (6.0 eq) in a specified solvent in 5 mm NMR tubes was irradiated for 15 min with a 450W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve ( $\lambda$ >300 nm) without deaeration. The yields were determined by proton NMR with an internal standard and isolated yields are in parenthesis. <sup>d</sup>In CD<sub>3</sub>OD. <sup>e</sup>In D<sub>2</sub>O. <sup>f</sup>10.0 mM solution. <sup>g</sup>In CH<sub>3</sub>OH.

We examined photoreaction of **5a** (pKa of the protonated amine ~10) in the presence of acetic acid (pKa = 4.76).<sup>25</sup> With the amount of acetic acid raised from one equiv to six equiv, complete conversion of **5a** was achieved in 15 min, and the yield of the released amine product increased from 66% to 81%. Further increase of the amount of acetic acid up to 30 equiv did not significantly change the yield of the released amine (*i.e.*, 83%). With stronger acids such as trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, pKa = -0.25), acid-enhanced amine releases were also observed with 1-10 equiv of TFA. However, with 30 equiv of TFA or six equiv of HCl (pKa = -8.0), the amine-releasing process was significantly diminished, leading to the yield of the corresponding aminium of **4a** in only 42%, and 8%, respectively. Presumably, protonation at the diethylamino group (pKa ~5) suppresses the photocleavage of the benzylic C-N bond. In <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the pre-irradiation reaction solution of **5**, downfield shifting of the benzylic

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methylene signal and the aromatic hydrogens is indicative of protonation at the respective aliphatic and aromatic amino group.

Similar acid-enhanced release of amines was confirmed with other protected primary and secondary amines (Table 1, entries 2-5). For example, **5b** ( $\varepsilon_{310nm}$  (MeOH) = 2800 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>), in the presence of acetic acid (6 eq), released the aminium salt of 1-adamantanamine cleanly in 98% yield in CD<sub>3</sub>OD ( $\Phi = 0.14$ ) (Table 1, entry 2). The aminium salts of secondary amines (4c-4e) were also released in good yields under the same acidic conditions (Table 1, entries 3-5). For example, 5d ( $\varepsilon_{310nm}$  (MeOH) = 2400 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) released the salt of di-n-octylamine (4d) in 75% yield in CD<sub>3</sub>OD ( $\Phi = 0.09$ ). In a run in the presence of acetic acid (6 eq) in CH<sub>3</sub>OH, the secondary amine **4d** was isolated in 70% yield (after derivatizing with FmocCl to facilitate separation). The relatively higher yield of 4b (compared with other amines) can probably be attributed to the lack of germinal hydrogen at C-1, which might prevent potential SEToriginated side reactions of amines under the irradiation conditions (for the mechanism see Scheme 2, Pathway B). It is noteworthy that the yield of releasing amines can be further improved in deaerated solutions, especially for the reactions carried out in the absence of protonic acid. However, control experiments showed that oxygen did not play a role in influencing the yield of releasing alcohols and acids from their DEABn protection, which suggests that oxygen probably enhances undesired photooxidation of amines. Photochemical release of protonated amines 5 from their 3-diethylaminobenzyl aminium salts can also take place in a water solution. For example, the aminium salt **6b**, prepared from 5b and one equiv of DCl dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O (10.0 mM) and irradiated for 30 min, led to the corresponding deuterated aminium salt of **4b** in 94% yield.<sup>25</sup> The aminium salt **6c** (5.0 mM in D<sub>2</sub>O), prepared in the same manner, led to the corresponding deuterated aminium salt of 4c in 96% vield upon 30 min of irradiation.<sup>25</sup>

For the tertiary amines, the same method was used to install the DEABn group and high yields were obtained, *i.e.*, 88% from *N,N*-dimethyloctadecylamine (**4f**) to **5f** and 93% from triethylamine (**4g**) to its aminium salt **5g**. The photoreaction conditions are different from releasing primary and secondary amines. Thus, without using a protonic acid, irradiation of **5f** ( $\varepsilon_{320nnn (MeOH)} = 1600 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD for 8 min released **4f**D<sup>+</sup> in 67% yield along with the demethylated byproduct **4e**·D<sup>+</sup> in 26% yield (eq 1 and Table 2, entry 1). The PPG part was converted mainly into the ether **7** (29%) and the reduced product **8** (40%). With 15 min of irradiation in CD<sub>3</sub>OD, the yields of **4f**D<sup>+</sup> and **4e**·D<sup>+</sup> changed to 62% and 33%, respectively (Table 2, entry 2). Switching solvents to CH<sub>3</sub>OH did not affect product distribution significantly. Irradiation of **5f** in CH<sub>3</sub>OH for 15 min released **4f**H<sup>+</sup> in 62% and 30% yield, respectively (Table 2, entry 3). The yields were confirmed by the isolated yields of **4f** and **4e** (as its Fmoc derivative) in 63% and 30%, respectively (Table 2, entry 3). The synchrony (Table 2, entry 3). The structure of **8** was confirmed by comparison with the authentic sample (See Experimental Section).



#### Table 2. Photoreaction of **5f** in Methanol

	salt	Solvent	Irradiation time (min) <sup>a</sup>	Yield of <b>4f</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of <b>4e</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	5f	CD <sub>3</sub> OD	8	67	26
2	5f	CD <sub>3</sub> OD	15	62	33
3	5f	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	15	62(63) <sup>c</sup>	30(30) <sup>d</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>5.0 mM irradiated in 5 mm NMR tubes with a 450W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve without deaeration. The yields were determined by proton NMR with an internal standard and isolated yields are in parenthesis. <sup>*b*</sup>Released as the corresponding aminium. <sup>*c*</sup>Isolated as **4f**. <sup>*d*</sup>Isolated as the Fmoc derivative.

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Contrary to the high yields obtained with primary and secondary amines in water solution, irradiation of **5f** and **5g** (5 mM in  $D_2O$ ) was less efficient (Table 3). For example, irradiation of **5g** for 10, 20, and 30 min led to **4g** $D^+$  in 32%, 56%, and 67% yield respectively, along with the aminium salt of diethylamine (**10**) in 12%, 20%, and 23%, respectively (Table 3). Acetaldehyde (**11**) was also observed in 7% yield at 10 min increasing to 14% yield at 30 min, along with its hydrate (**12**) increasing from 4% at 10 min to 10% at 30 min. In this reaction, the compound **8** was observed along with other unrecognized products originating from the PPG moiety.

Table 3. Photochemistry of 5g in water



For the photoreaction of the caged tertiary amines (exemplified with **5f**), we postulated that the initial step would lead to the C-N bond cleavage and formation of the desired tertiary amine **4f** and the PPG benzylic cation **I** (Scheme 2). There could be multiple possible photochemical and thermal reaction pathways starting from the pair of **4f** and **I** under the reaction conditions. For example, quenching of **I** with methanol would result in the ether **7**. The released deutron would deutronate **4f** to provide the salt **4f**D<sup>+</sup> (Pathway A). A competing process would likely involve electron transfer between **4f** and the benzylic cation **I** to produce the radical cation **II** and the benzyli free radical **III**. The intermediate **II** 

could also be formed through SET between **4f** and molecular oxygen under the irradiation reaction conditions. Starting from here, the reaction pathway could be further diverted into two directions (*i.e.*, Pathway B and C), depending the reaction conditions such as the solvent. Pathway B would involve hydrogen abstraction of **III** from **II**, leading to formation of the reduced product **8** and the iminium intermediate **IV**. Solvoylsis of **IV** would eventually generate the dealkylated product **4** $e^{D^+}$ . Pathway C would involve deuterium abstraction from the solvent by both **II** and **III** separately, leading to **4f**D<sup>+</sup> and **8**, respectively.





Formation of an iminium intermediate and thus converting a tertiary amine to the corresponding secondary amine is known in the literature.<sup>26-33</sup> A recent example is the observation of diethylamine and acetaldehyde formation in the release of triethylamine from its 4-hydroxyphenacyl aminium salt in aqueous solutions.<sup>18</sup> A mechanism involving UV-initiated SET from the tertiary amine to the PPG moiety followed by a subsequent reaction sequence similar to the pathway B postulated in Scheme 2 might also operate.

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Based on this working mechanism, we inferred that by using a solvent with better hydrogen donating ability than methanol, pathway C would be enhanced, improving release of the tertiary amine and minimizing production of the secondary amine byproduct. Thus we anticipated that switching solvent from methanol ( $DE_{C-H} = 92$  kcal/mol) to acetonitrile ( $DE_{C-H} = 86$  kcal/mol)<sup>34</sup> would improve the ratio of product to byproduct. Indeed, the photoreaction of 5f in MeCN/water became more chemically efficient with fewer byproducts. Irradiation of **5f** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN/D<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) for 15 min led to **4f** D<sup>+</sup> in 83% yield ( $\Phi =$ 0.18) along with the reduced production of  $4e^{-1}$  in 12% yield (Table 4, entry 1). In a larger scale run, irradiation of 5f under the same conditions in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) led to 4f in 85% isolated yield (Table 4, entry 2).<sup>35</sup> In pure acetonitrile, the yield of  $4fD^+$  was 80% while the formation of the  $4eD^+$  was completely eliminated (Table 4, entry 3); the main product derived from the PPG portion was the N-[(3diethylaminophenyl)methyl]acetamide in 30% yield. The high yield of tertiary amine product in MeCN/water was then confirmed with the reaction of 5g CD<sub>3</sub>CN/D<sub>2</sub>O (9:1); the triethylamine salt was released in 91% yield (Table 4, entry 4). As expected, the solvent isotope effect was not significant, and the presence of six equiv of acetic acid in the solution of 5f did not change the reaction yields. These results suggest that addition of acid to **5a-5e** probably facilitates photocleavage of the C-N by converting the amino group into a good leaving group instead of preventing the SET-related side reactions of the released amine.

Table 4. Photoreaction of 5f and 5g in Different Solvents

	salt	Solvent	Irradiation time (min) <sup>a</sup>	Yield of 3° amine (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2° amine (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	5f	CD <sub>3</sub> CN/D <sub>2</sub> O (9:1)	15	83	12
2	5f	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O (9:1)	15	(85) <sup>c</sup>	$ND^d$
3	5f	CD <sub>3</sub> CN	15	80	0
4	5g	CD <sub>3</sub> CN/D <sub>2</sub> O (9:1)	15	91	$ND^d$

<sup>*a*</sup>5.0 mM irradiated in 5 mm NMR tubes with a 450W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve without deaeration. The yields were determined by proton NMR with an internal

standard and isolated yields are in parenthesis. <sup>*b*</sup>Released as the corresponding aminium. <sup>*c*</sup>Isolated as **4f**.  $^{d}$ ND = not determined.

It is also worth noting that the PPG-incorporated acetamide **13** is photochemically stable under the irradiation conditions. Despite the fact that the acetamide **14** is a better leaving group than amine, there was no perceptible reaction detected by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis in the reaction solution of pure **13** irradiated in methanol or MeCN/water with or without the presence of acetic acid (1-30 equiv) (Scheme 3). Presumably, with the carbonyl group's presence, a SET process between the aromatic amino group and the carbonyl and the subsequent decay of the intermediate **15** back to **13** serves as an effective internal filtering process (Scheme 3). This hypothesis is in agreement with our earlier observations that release of an acid from DEABn protection is less efficient than release of an alcohol. In releasing acid, a similar SET process might also be operative.<sup>36,37</sup>

Scheme 3. Photochemical Inertness of Acetamide



In summary, we demonstrated that the DEABn PPG can effectively release primary, secondary, and tertiary amines by direct breaking of C-N bond photochemically. While photochemical release of primary and secondary amines provide high yields in methanol, release of tertiary amines in MeCN/water can improve yields and reduce the undesired dealkylation side reaction.

#### **Experimental Section**

General. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation at ca. 12 Torr. Flash column chromatography was performed employing 230-400 mesh silica gel. Thin-layer chromatography was

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performed using glass plates pre-coated to a depth of 0.25 mm with 230-400 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Infrared (IR) data are presented as frequency of absorption (cm<sup>-1</sup>). Proton and carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H NMR or <sup>13</sup>C NMR) spectra were recorded on 300, 400 and 700 MHz NMR spectrometers; Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million ( $\delta$  scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  7.26). Data are presented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances), coupling constant in Hertz (Hz), integration. HRMS was conducted with ESI ionization method and with TOF mass analyser.

**Materials.** Anhydrous solvents Tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethylformamide (DMF), and dichloromethane (DCM) were used without distillation. Solvents for workup and column chromatography, such as petroleum ether (PE), ethyl acetate (EA), methanol (MeOH), and triethylamine (TEA), and other chemicals were obtained from commercial vendors and used without further purification.

*N,N-diethyl-3-((octadecylamino)methyl)aniline (5a)*: To the solution of 3-(N,N-diethylamino)benzyl chloride **2** (0.1 gm, 0.507 mmol) and octadecan-1-amine **4a** (0.82 gm, 3.04 mmol) in DCM/DMF (2 mL: 0.5 mL) was added tetrabutylamomium iodide (56 mg, 0.151 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 4 days. The reaction mixture was then concentrated and the residue was purified with flash column chromatography (from DCM/EtOAc 1:1 to EtOAc) to provide **5a** (136 mg, 62%) as a yellow oil.  $R_f 0.4$  (DCM/MeOH/Et<sub>3</sub>N 1:1:0.01); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.60-6.55 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.34 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.55-1.45 (m, 1H), 1.25 (m, 32H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

148.1, 141.8, 129.3, 115.4, 111.7, 110.6, 54.8, 49.7, 44.4, 32.0, 30.3, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 27.5, 22.8, 14.2, 12.7; IR (neat) 2921, 2851, 1601, 1580, 1496, 1456, 1394, 1374, 1355, 1270, 1199, 1176, 1145, 1118, 1094, 1076, 1024, 989, 909, 849, 768, 732, 693, 434; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>55</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 431.4365, found 431.4367.

*N*-(*3-aminobenzyl*)*adamantan-1-amine* (*5b*): To the solution of **2** (0.5 g, 2.5 mmol) and 1-adamantamine **4b** (0.383 g, 2.5 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (95 mg, 0.63 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.42 g, 3.04 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 45 °C for 24 h and was then concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 7:3 to EA) to provide **5b** (0.52 g, 66%) as a colorless liquid.  $R_f = 0.45$  (DCM/ MeOH/Et<sub>3</sub>N 1:1:0.01); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.14 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.53 (m, 3H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.33 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.08 (m, 3H), 1.72-1.602 (m, 13H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.9, 142.4, 129.3, 115.4, 111.9, 110.4, 50.9, 45.7, 44.2, 42.7, 36.7, 29.6, 12.6; IR (neat) 2967, 2902, 2846, 1601, 1579; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 313.2644, found 313.2640.

3-((4-Benzylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl)-N,N-diethylaniline (5c): To the solution of 2 (0.3 g, 1.52 mmol) and 4-benzylpiperidine 4c (0.266 g, 1.52 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (57 mg, 0.38 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.210 g, 1.52 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h and then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EA 8:1 to 1:1) to provide 5c as a colorless liquid (0.487 g, 95%).  $R_f = 0.5$  (DCM/MeOH/Et<sub>3</sub>N 1:1:0.01); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.62-6.54 (m, 3H), 3.42 (s, 2H), 3.32 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.90-2.86 (m, 2H), 2.51 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (td, *J* = 2.2, 11.6 Hz, 2H), 1.62-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.45 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.7,

140.8, 139.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 125.6, 116.4, 112.6, 110.4, 63.9, 53.7, 44.3, 43.2, 37.2, 32.2, 12.5; IR (neat) 3025, 2967, 2920, 2846, 2795, 2750, 1600, 1579, 1494; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 337.2644, found 337.2642.

*3-((Dioctylamino)methyl)-N,N-diethylaniline (5d)*: To the solution of **2** (0.4 g, 2.03 mmol) and dinoctylamine **4d** (0.4 g, 1.65 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (62 mg, 0.41 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.229 g, 1.65 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 12 h and was then concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 8:2) to provide **5d** as a colorless liquid 0.581 g (88%).  $R_f = 0.3$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.12 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.59-6.53 (m, 2H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 3.33 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.39 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.45 (m, 4H), 1.25 (m, 20H), 1.15 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.9, 141.4, 128.9, 116.3, 112.5, 110.5, 59.2, 54.0, 44.5, 32.0, 29.8, 29.5, 27.7, 27.3, 22.8, 14.2, 12.8; IR (neat) 2955, 2923, 2853, 2794, 1601, 1580, 1495; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>51</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 403.4052, found 403.4049.

*N,N-diethyl-3-((methyl(octadecyl)amino)methyl)aniline (5e)*: To the solution of **2** (0.25 g, 1.27 mmol) and *N*-methyl octadecylamine **4e** (0.360 g, 1.27 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (47 mg, 0.317 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.21 g, 1.52 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h and was then concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 7:3 to EA) to provide **5e** as a colorless liquid 0.514 g (yield 92%).  $R_f = 0.56$  (DCM: MeOH 9:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.14 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.56 (m, 3H), 3.42 (s, 2H), 3.33 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.25 (m, 30H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.8, 140.2, 128.9, 116.3, 112.5, 110.4, 62.9, 57.4, 44.2, 42.4, 31.9, 29.6,

29.3, 27.5, 22.6, 14.1, 12.6; IR (neat) 2921, 2851, 2784, 1601, 1580, 1495; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>57</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 445.4522, found 445.4517.

*N*-(*3*-(*diethylamino*)*benzyl*)-*N*,*N*-*dimethyloctadecan*-*1*-*aminium chloride* (*5f*): To the solution of **2** (0.400 g, 2.0 mmol) and *N*,*N*-dimethyl-n-octadecylamine **4f** (0.725 g, 2.4 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (15 mg, 0.10 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 15 h and was then concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH 9:1) to provide **5f** as a colorless liquid 0.910 g (88%).  $R_f = 0.4$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.74-6.69 (m, 2H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 3.54-3.48 (m, 2H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 3.33 (s, 6H), 1.80 (br, 2H), 1.34-1.25 (m, 30H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.4, 130.1, 128.2, 119.2, 116.1, 113.6, 68.6, 63.9, 50.3, 44.5, 32.1, 29.82, 29.76, 29.70, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 26.5, 23.2, 22.8, 14.2; IR (neat) 3384, 3045, 3015, 2962, 2914, 2847, 1602, 1578, 1500; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>59</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M-Cl) 459.4678, found 459.4682.

*N*-(*3*-(*diethylamino*)*benzyl*)-*N*,*N*-*diethylethanaminium chloride* (**5***g*): To the Solution of **2** (0.4 g, 2.03 mmol) and triethyl amine **4***g* (1.69 mL, 12.1 mmol) in acetone was added NaI (15 mg, 0.10 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 4 days and was then concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 7:3 to EA) to provide **5***g* (0.567 g, 93%) as a colorless liquid.  $R_f = 0.4$  (DCM/MeOH 9:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73-6.70 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.44 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 3.33 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.8, 129.8, 127.4, 117.9, 114.6, 113.1, 61.5, 52.4, 44.0, 12.1, 8.1; IR (neat) 3375, 2972, 1600, 1577, 1502, 1481; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 263.2487, found 263.2486.

General procedure for photoreaction:

*Photoreaction in 5 mm NMR tube in deuterated solvent:* To 5 mm NMR tubes was added 0.5 mL of the stock solution of **5** (5.0 mM) with a micro syringe. The proper amount of acid was then added. One NMR tube containing the solution was kept in the dark as a control. Another NMR tube was then bound to the immersion well condenser of the photoreactor. A 450W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve ( $\lambda$ >300 nm) was used as the light source. After irradiation, an equal amount of the internal standard solution (such as mesitylene) was added to both the control tube and the reaction tube. The conversion and yields of the photoreaction were then determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the photoreaction samples and the control sample with the internal standard. For photoreactions under inert atmosphere, the reaction tube was bubbled argon for ~2 min through a long needle to exclude air.

*Photoreaction in non-deuterated solvent:* To a 5 mm NMR tube was added 0.5 mL of the stock solution of *3-((dioctylamino)methyl)-N,N-diethylaniline* 5*d* (5.0 mM) with a micro syringe. The proper amount of acid was then added. One NMR tube containing the solution was kept in the dark as a control. Another NMR tube was then bound to the immersion well condenser of the photoreactor. A 450W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve ( $\lambda$ >300 nm) was used as the light source. After UV irradiation, the reaction solution and the control were transferred separately to respective vials, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was redissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and an equal amount of the internal standard solution (such as mesitylene) was added to both the reaction mixture and the control. The conversion and yields were calculated based on integration of mesitylene and the products.

Photolysis of 3-((dioctylamino)methyl)-N,N-diethylaniline (5d) in methanol: The solution of 5d (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) with acetic acid (34  $\mu$ L, 0.6 mmol) in 20 mL of methanol was divided equally into 13 5 mm NMR tubes. The tubes were bound to the immersion well condenser of the photoreactor and irradiated for 15 min. After irradiation, the reaction solutions were combined and concentrated. The residue was then subject to the standard procedure in acetonitrile/water (3:1) with Fmoc-Cl and sodium carbonate to provide the Fmoc-protected amine S1 (32.8 mg, 70%) as a colorless oil after flash column (PE/EA 20:1) purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.24 (m, 4H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.11 (m, 22H), 0.89-0.87 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 156.2, 144.4, 141.5, 127.6, 127.1, 124.9, 120.0, 66.7, 47.6, 47.3, 31.9, 29.5, 29.4, 28.8, 28.3, 27.0, 22.8, 14.2; IR (neat ) 2954, 2923, 2854, 1697, 1464; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>46</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 464.3529, found 464.3524.

Photolysis of N-(3-(diethylamino)benzyl)-N,N-dimethyloctadecan-1-aminium chloride (5f) in methanol: The solution of 5f (74 mg, 0.15 mmol) in 30 mL of methanol was divided equally into 20 5 mm NMR tubes. The tubes were bound to the immersion well condenser of the photoreactor and irradiated for 15 min. After irradiation, the reaction solutions were combined and concentrated. The residue was then subject to the standard procedure in acetonitrile/water (3:1) with Fmoc-Cl and sodium carbonate to convert the secondary amine 4e to (9H-fluoren-9-yl)methyl methyl(octadecyl)carbamate S2. The reaction solution was then concentrated and purified with flash column (PE/EA 20:1) to provide 4f (28.2 mg, 63%) and S2 (23.2 mg, 30%). For S2, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.77 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (m, 1H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.90 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 3H), 1.06-1.63 (m), 0.90

(t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.2, 144.2, 141.3, 127.5, 126.9, 125.0, 124.8, 119.9, 66.9, 48.9, 47.4, 34.5, 31.9, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 27.8, 27.5, 26.7, 22.6, 14.1; IR (neat) 2922, 2852, 1704, 1478; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>52</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 506.3998, found 506.3994. For N,N-diethyl-3-(methoxymethyl)aniline (**7**), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.65-6.59 (m, 3 H), 4.40 (s, 2 H), 3.39-3.32 (m, 7 H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.2, 139.3, 129.4, 115.0, 111.4, 111.2, 75.4, 58.1, 44.4, 12.7; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2969, 2926, 2870, 2818, 1601, 1580; 1496; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO (M+H) 194.1545, found 194.1544.

*N,N-diethyl-3-methylaniline (8)*: To the ice-water bath cooled solution of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (19 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 1.8 mL dry THF was added **2** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol) 0.2 mL of THF. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir overnight and was then quenched with 19 µL of water, 38 µL of 10% NaOH (aq), and 57 µL of water. The crude product was concentrated and purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 25:1) to provide **8** (16 mg, 49%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.53-6.47 (m, 3H), 3.35 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.1, 139.0, 129.3, 116.5, 112.8, 109.3, 44.4, 22.1, 12.8; IR (neat) 3044, 2967, 2927, 2870, 1599, 1579, 1496, 1467; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calc for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N (M+H) 164.1439, found 164.1436.

*Photolysis of N-(3-(diethylamino)benzyl)-N,N-dimethyloctadecan-1-aminium chloride (5f) in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O*: (A) The solution of **5f** (74 mg, 0.15 mmol) in 30 mL of MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) was divided equally into 20 5 mm NMR tubes. The tubes were bound to the immersion well condenser of the photoreactor and irradiated for 15 min. After irradiation, the reaction solutions were combined, concentrated, and purified with flash column (PE/EA 20:1) to provide **4f** (38 mg, 85%). (B) The solution

of **5f** (500 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in 250 mL of MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) in a 250 mL photoreactor vessel. The reaction solution was irradiated for 60 min with stirring. After irradiation, the reaction solution was concentrated. To the residue was added MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (90 mL, 3:1), Fmoc Cl (0.39 g, 1.5 mmol) and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.21 g, 2.0 mmol), and reaction solution was stirred at room temperature for 19 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated and purified with flash column chromatography (PE/EA 9:1to DCM/MeOH 9:1) to provide **4f** (0.21 g, 70%).

*Quantum yield determination*: A 5.0 mM solution of phenylglyoxylic acid (CD<sub>3</sub>CN/D<sub>2</sub>O 3:1) and a 5.0 mM solution of **5** in NMR tube were placed behind a standard 1 cm quartz UV cuvette contain the filter solution.<sup>38</sup> Filtered light centered at 312 nm was obtained by passing light from the 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp through a solution of 2.0 mM K<sub>2</sub>CrO<sub>4</sub> in a 5% K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution.<sup>39,40</sup> The yields of photo reactions were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR for every 15 min of irradiation.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**. We thank the NSF (CHE 1404063) for financial support. We also thank Z. Ding for the contribution to the synthetic work.

**Supporting Information Available**: <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <u>http://pubs.acs.org</u>.

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