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Transition-Metal-Free and Oxidant-Free Cross-Coupling of Arylhydrazines with Disulfides: Base-Promoted Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Aryl Sulfides

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Abstract Graphic

$$R^{1} \stackrel{\text{II}}{\parallel} + R^{2} \cdot S \cdot S \cdot R^{2}$$

$$R^{2} = \text{aryl, alkyl} \quad \text{heteroaryl} \quad \text{oxidant-free} \quad \text{oxidant-free}$$

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ABSTRACT: A novel synthesis of unsymmetrical aryl sulfides, which requires no transition metal catalyst and no oxidant, was developed. This base-promoted cross-coupling reaction proceeded using arylhydrazines and one equivalent amount of disulfides under inert gas conditions to afford the unsymmetrical aryl sulfides in good vields.

INTRODUCTION

Diaryl sulfides, which are used as pharmaceuticals, bioactive compounds, functional polymer materials, and synthetic chemicals, have received considerable attention. In particular, unsymmetrical aryl sulfides are of great importance as medicines for the treatment of various medical conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, neoplastic, HCV, diabetic, and parasitic diseases. The importance of diaryl sulfides in biologically and pharmaceutically active compounds has sparked an increased interest toward improving methodologies to form these unsymmetrical compounds.

One of the most popular synthetic methods of unsymmetrical diaryl sulfides is the traditional Stadler–Ziegler reaction (Scheme 1),⁴ where aryl amines are converted into the corresponding diazonium salts. These salts react with thiolates to yield unsymmetrical diaryl sulfides. The Stadler–Ziegler reaction has also been applied to the

industrial manufacturing of diaryl sulfides.⁵ Recently, a cross-coupling reaction of diazonium salts with thiols using a SET photoredox catalyst was reported.⁶ In this reaction, diazonium salts and diazosulfides are formed as key intermediates, which are explosive and therefore their use is better avoided.⁷

Among the numerous synthetic methods for the aryl C–S bond formation, a powerful approach is the transition-metal-catalyzed C–S coupling reaction. Hitherto, many transition-metal-catalyzed systems including palladium, nickel, inch, in

Moreover, to apply these reactions to industrial scale production, researchers often face the following problems: 1) Most of the transition metal catalysts, e.g., palladium catalysts, are very expensive, and some of them are toxic; and 2) The removal of

transition metal residues from the target products is very costly. Therefore, the development of diaryl sulfide synthetic methods in the absence of transition metal catalysts is strongly desired from a practical perspective.

The formation of unsymmetrical aryl sulfides from diaryl disulfides, which are easy to handle, and aryl radicals generated from diazonium salts under reducing conditions is well-known. Moreover, the generation of aryl radicals from arylhydrazines under oxidative conditions has been reported (homolytic aromatic substitution (HAS) reaction), although, excess amounts of radical acceptors are generally required. Furthermore, diaryl disulfides are easily oxidized under air in the presence of a base and converted into benzenesulfonic acids. On the converted into benzenesulfonic acids.

Herein, we report a transition-metal-free and oxidant-free cross-coupling reaction of arylhydrazines with diaryl disulfides overcoming the above difficulties. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first example of the synthesis of unsymmetrical diaryl sulfide using arylhydrazines and one equivalent of diaryl disulfides under oxidant-free conditions.

Scheme 1. Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Diaryl Sulfides

Traditional Stadler-Ziegler Reaction:

$$R^{1} \stackrel{\text{(i)}}{=} NH_{2} \stackrel{\text{(i)}}{=} N_{2}X \stackrel{\text{(i)}}{=} R^{2}$$

$$S_{RN}^{1} \text{ Reaction}$$

$$Via \qquad Via \qquad V$$

Efficient Method for C-S Bond Formation by Photoredox Catalyst:

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} + HS \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R^{2} \xrightarrow{\text{Photoredox Catalyst}} R^{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R^{2}$$

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R^{2} \xrightarrow{\text{Photoredox Catalyst}} R^{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R^{2}$$

Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions:

Efficient Method for C-S Bond Formation Using Diaryldisulfides:

X = I, COOH; Conditions: Transition Metal Catalyst

 $X = N_2X$; Conditions: Photoredox Catalyst or Reductant

This Work:
$$R^{1} \stackrel{\text{II}}{ } \qquad R^{2} \stackrel{\text{II}}{ } \qquad R^{2} \qquad Cs_{2}CO_{3} \qquad \qquad R^{1} \stackrel{\text{II}}{ } \qquad R^{2} \qquad R^{2$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the course of our previous studies on the cross-coupling of arylhydrazines with aminoheterocycles²¹ and aromatic diamines,²² we examined the cross-coupling reaction of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) with 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (Table 1). The coupling reaction of **1a** with one equivalent of **2a** in the presence of potassium carbonate (2.0 equiv) in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) occurred to afford 4-chlorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3aa**) in 75% yield (Table 1, entry 1).

A shorter reaction time slightly lowered the yield of **3aa** (Table 1, entry 1, footnote b). When the amounts of **2a** were decreased to 0.5 mmol and 0.75 mmol, the yields of **3aa** were lowered (Table 1, entry 1, footnotes c and d). However, increasing the amounts of **2a** to 1.5 mmol and 2.0 mmol, the similar yields of **3aa** were obtained (Table 1, entry 1, footnotes e and f). Another solvents (DMF, DMA, MeCN, and MeOH) gave **3aa** in reduced yields (Table 1, entries 2-5).

Using rubidium carbonate or cesium carbonate as base, **3aa** was formed in similar yields (Table 1, entries 6 and 7). However, the use of lithium carbonate or sodium carbonate resulted in poor yields of **3aa** (Table 1, entries 8 and 9).

Table 1. Optimization of Synthesis of 3aa

1a , 1.0 mmol		2a , 1.0 mmol	3aa
entry	solvent (mL)	base (equiv)	yield (%) ^a
1	DMSO (10)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	$75, 42^b, 44^c, 63^d,$
			$77^e, 74^f$
2	DMF (10)	$K_2CO_3(2.0)$	38
3	DMA (10)	$K_2CO_3(2.0)$	39
4	MeCN (10)	$K_2CO_3(2.0)$	9
5	MeOH (10)	$K_2CO_3(2.0)$	17
6	DMSO (10)	$Rb_2CO_3(2.0)$	74
7	DMSO (10)	$Cs_2CO_3(2.0)$	$73, 67^g, 61^h$
8	DMSO (10)	$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3(2.0)$	11
9	DMSO (10)	$Na_2CO_3(2.0)$	19
10	DMSO (10)	DBU (2.0)	54
11	DMSO (10)	DABCO (2.0)	16
12	DMSO (10)	Et_3N (2.0)	7
13	DMSO (10)	none	trace
14	DMSO (5)	$K_2CO_3(1.0)$	69
15	DMSO (5)	$Rb_2CO_3(1.0)$	42
16	DMSO (10)	Cs_2CO_3 (1.0)	72
17	DMSO (5)	Cs_2CO_3 (1.0)	79
18	DMSO (3)	$Cs_2CO_3(1.0)$	$82, 82^{i}$
19	DMSO (3)	$Cs_2CO_3(0.5)$	5
20	DMSO (2)	Cs_2CO_3 (1.0)	81

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol) and **2a** (1.0 mmol) at 25 °C for 24 h under air. ^aHPLC yields, calibration curve was shown in Figure S23. ^bReaction time was 18 h. ^c**2a** (0.5 mmol). ^d**2a** (0.75 mmol). ^e**2a** (1.5 mmol), ^f**2a** (2.0 mmol). ^gReaction temperature was 35 °C. ^hReaction temperature was 80 °C for 1 hour. ⁱIsolated yield.

Higher reaction temperatures (35 °C and 80 °C for 1 hour) in the presence of cesium carbonate as base gave slightly lowered the yields of **3aa** (Table 1, entry 7, footnotes g and h). When the reaction time was longer than 1 hour at 80 °C, a complex mixture such as tar was formed.

As to organic bases, DBU was effective in this cross-coupling reaction and gave **3aa** in 54% yield (Table 1, entry 10). The use of DABCO or triethylamine was ineffective (Table 1, entries 11 and 12). In the absence of a base, **3aa** was not obtained (Table 1, entry 13).

The yields of **3aa** decreased when one equivalent of K₂CO₃ or Rb₂CO₃ in 5 mL of DMSO were used (Table 1, entries 14 and 15). Instead, in the presence of one equivalent of Cs₂CO₃, desired **3aa** was synthesized in good yield (Table 1, entry 17). The best result was obtained under high concentrated conditions (DMSO, 3 mL), and product **3aa** was generated in 82% yield (Table 1, entry 18). Using 0.5 equivalent of base resulted in a remarkable decrease of yield of **3aa** (Table 1, entry 19). These results show that the base plays an important role in this cross-coupling reaction. Reducing the volume of solvent to 2 mL did not improve further the yield of **3aa** (Table 1, entry 20).

Surprisingly, **3aa** was formed in 41% yield under an atmosphere of nitrogen (Table 2, entry 1). Under these conditions the yield was further increased when the amount of

DMSO was increased to 5mL, 7.5 mL, and 10 mL (Table 2, entries 2, 3, and 4), and improved to 78% when the reaction time was increased (45 h) (Table 2, entry 4, footnote b). A similar yield of **3aa** was observed under an argon atmosphere (Table 2, entry 4, footnote c) and the reaction also proceeded smoothly in DMF or DMA (*N*,*N*-dimethylacetamide) under nitrogen or argon atmospheres (Table 2, entries 5 and 6). These results strongly suggest that oxidants are not necessary for this cross-coupling reaction. However, **3aa** was hardly obtained when other solvents such as MeCN or MeOH were employed under an argon atmosphere (Table 2, entries 7 and 8). These low yields might be attributable to the very low solubility of **2a** in MeCN or MeOH.

Table 2. Synthesis of 3aa under Inert Gas

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol) and **2a** (1.0 mmol) at 25 °C for 24 h under N_2 . ^aHPLC yields. ^bReaction time was 45 h. ^cUnder argon atmosphere.

With the optimized conditions in hand, the scope and limitations of the cross-coupling reaction of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a) with a series of disulfides (2a-2k) were investigated (Table 3). The reaction of 1a with 3,3'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2b) provided compound 3ab in 75% yield. In the case of 2,2'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2c), the yield of 3ac was lower probably due to steric effects. The reaction of 1a with a diaryl disulfide bearing an electron-donating group such as methyl group provided 3ad in 30% yield under air. A similar yield of 3ad was also observed under an argon atmosphere.

The coupling reaction of **1a** with 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl disulfide (**2e**) having acidic protons using 1.0 equiv or 3.0 equiv of cesium carbonate was performed to afford the corresponding **3ae** in moderate yields. However, the coupling reaction of **1a** with 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl disulfide gave a complicated mixture.

Additionally, the cross-coupling with heteroaryl disulfides was successful. Thus, 2,2'-dibenzothiazolyl disulfide (**2f**) gave **3af** in high yield (76%) and with 4,4'-dipyridyl disulfide (**2g**) **3ag** was obtained in good yield. Instead, the use of 2,2'-dipyridyl disulfide (**2h**) resulted in a low yield (20%) of **3ah**. Interestingly, in the case of the 2,2'-dipyridyl disulfide derivative bearing a nitro group (**2i**), the coupling reaction provided **3ai** in excellent yield (93%). In addition, the coupling reactions with alkyl

disulfides gave the corresponding unsymmetrical sulfides in good to high yields (3aj and 3ak).

Table 3. Cross-Coupling Reaction of 1a with Disulfides 2

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol) and **2** (1.0 mmol) at 25 °C for 24 h under air. ^aIsolated yields. ^bUnder argon atmosphere. ^cCesium carbonate (3.0 mmol) was used.

Next, the cross-coupling between a variety of arylhydrazine hydrochlorides (1b-1k) and several disulfides (2a, 2j, 2l, and 2m) was examined, and the results are summarized in Table 4. The cross-coupling reaction of arylhydrazine hydrochlorides bearing either electron-withdrawing groups (i.e., fluoro, bromo, cyano, and nitro groups) or electron-donating groups (i.e., methyl group) with 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2a) successfully afforded 3ba-3ga in good to excellent yields (55-94%). However, the reaction of 4-methoxyphenylhydrazine hydrochloride having an electron-donating group with 2a gave a complex mixture. Sulfide 3aa was synthesized from 4-nitrophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1h) and 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl disulfide (2l) (67% under air and 59% under argon). Compound 1h was allowed to react with diphenyl disulfide (2m) to afford 3da in good yield (62%).

Using 4-nitrophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1h**) and dimethyl disulfide (**2j**), **3hj** was obtained in good yield (62%). Finally, the cross-coupling reaction could be applied to more hindered dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochlorides (**1i-1k**) with 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**), giving the corresponding products (**3ia-3ka**) in good yields.

Table 4. Reaction of Arylhydrazines 1b-1k with Disulfides 2a, 2j, 2l, and 2m

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol) and **2** (1.0 mmol) at 25 °C for 24 h under air. Isolated yields are shown. ^aUnder argon atmosphere.

Even in a large-scale reaction (20 mmol), the cross-coupling of **1a** with **2a** proceeded smoothly to afford **3aa** in 79% yield (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. Large-Scale Reaction

To clarify the mechanistic pathway for the cross-coupling reaction of arylhydrazines

with disulfides, a radical trapping experiment was performed. Thus, using 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine 1-oxyl (TEMPO) under argon in DMF, the 4-chlorophenyl radical was trapped to afford **4** in 15% yield. Also, **3aa** was formed in a reduced yield (Scheme 3).

Scheme 3. Radical Trapping Experiment with TEMPO

Next, the reaction of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a) with two equivalents of 4-nitrobenzenethiol (2a') instead of 4,4'-nitrodiphenyl disulfide (2a) was investigated (Scheme 4). The desired product 3aa was formed in a low yield (12%) under argon atmosphere. This result suggests that disulfide 2a may formally act as an oxidant.

Scheme 4. Reaction of 4-Nitrobenzenethiol with 1a

In summary, the generation of aryl radicals from arylhydrazines (HAS-type reaction) was successfully achieved in the absence of any oxidant. The base-promoted cross-coupling reaction of arylhydrazines with one equivalent of disulfides under inert gas provides unsymmetrical aryl sulfides in good yields. This rare HAS-type reaction provides a practical synthesis of unsymmetrical aryl sulfides.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Information. All the starting materials were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. IR spectra were reported in wave numbers (cm $^{-1}$). 1 H NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz spectrometer using CDCl₃ or DMSO- d_6 as solvent referenced to TMS (0 ppm) and CHCl₃ (7.26 ppm) or DMSO (2.50 ppm). 13 C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl₃ and DMSO- d_6 using CDCl₃ (77.0 ppm) and DMSO- d_6 (39.5 ppm) as standards. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm). Coupling constants are in reported in hertz (J, Hz). The

following abbreviations are used for the description of signals: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quadruplet), and m (multiplet). Exact mass spectra were recorded using direct analysis in real time (DART-TOFMS). Analytical TLC was carried out on silica gel plates using short wave (254 nm) UV light. Silica gel (230–400 mesh) was used for column chromatography.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Aryl Sulfide 3. A mixture of arylhydrazine hydrochlorides 1 (1.0 mmol), disulfides 2 (1.0 mmol), and cesium carbonate (326 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DMSO (3.0 mL) was stirred at 25 °C in air. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and upon completion (24 h) quenched by the addition of water. Then, the reaction mixtures were extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with water and brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give crude products, which were purified by column chromatography (inner diameter: 3.0 cm and length: 30 cm) over silica gel (hexane/AcOEt) to afford pure products.

4-Chlorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (3aa). Compound **3aa** was synthesized from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and

4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3aa** (218 mg, 0.82 mmol, 82%) as a pale yellow block crystal; $R_f = 0.44$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 84.5–85.5 °C (Lit.²³ 83–84 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3091, 3059, 1502, 1331, 1078, 845 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.32 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 4H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 124.4, 127.3, 129.0, 130.3, 134.8, 136.0, 145.3, 146.7; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_8CINO_2S$ [M⁺]: 264.9964, found: 264.9944.

4-Chlorophenyl 3'-nitrophenyl sulfide (3ab). Compound 3ab was prepared from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a)1.0 (179)mg, mmol) and 3,3'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2b) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave 3ab (198 mg, 0.75 mmol, 75%) as a pale yellow needle; $R_f = 0.34$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 70.5-71.5 °C (Lit.²⁴70–71 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3083, 3066, 1521, 1343, 727 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.50-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.64 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td, J = 1.6 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (ddd, J = 1.6 Hz, J = 2.3 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 121.8, 123.0, 130.0, 130.9, 131.1, 133.8, 134.3, 135.3, 138.2, 148.4; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C₁₂H₈ClNO₂S [M⁺]: 264.9964, found: 264.9943.

4-Chlorophenyl 2'-nitrophenyl sulfide (3ac). Compound 3ac was prepared according to the general procedure using 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 2,2'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2c) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave 3ac (105 mg, 0.40 mmol, 40%) as a pale orange needle. $R_f = 0.22$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 96.0–97.0 °C (Lit. 25 94–96 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3100, 1504, 1303, 1091 cm⁻¹; H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 6.91 (dd, J = 1.4 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dt, J = 1.4 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.65 (m, 5H), 8.25 (dd, J = 1.4 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H); J = 8.2 Hz, 1H; J = 8.2

4-Chlorophenyl 4'-tolyl sulfide (3ad). The mixture of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4,4'-ditolyl disulfide (**2d**) (246 mg, 1.0 mmol),

and cesium carbonate (1.0 equiv) in DMSO (3 mL) provided the desired **3ad** (71 mg, 0.30 mmol, 30% in air, and 86 mg, 0.37 mmol, 37% under argon). Recrystallization from hexane, gave **3ad** as a white solid; $R_f = 0.40$ (hexane) (UV); mp 71.5–72.5 °C (Lit.²⁴ 70–71 °C); FT-IR (neat) 2917, 1472, 1085, 804 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 20.7, 129.3, 129.4, 130.5, 130.5, 131.2, 132.5, 135.7, 138.2; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}CIS$ [M⁺]: 234.0270, found: 234.0255.

4-Chlorophenyl 4'-hydroxyphenyl sulfide (3ae). Following the general procedure, compound **3ae** was synthesized from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl disulfide (**2e**) (250 mg, 1.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 2:1) afforded **3ae** (138 mg, 0.58 mmol, 58%) as an orange solid; Rf = 0.50 (hexane/AcOEt = 2:1) (UV); mp 66.0-67.5 °C (Lit. 26 54–55 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3283, 1582, 1489, 1092, 810 cm $^{-1}$; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 6.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 9.95 (bs, 1H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz,

DMSO- d_6) δ 116.9, 119.6, 128.4, 129.0, 130.1, 136.3, 138.0, 158.6; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C₁₂H₉ClOS [M⁺]: 236.0063, found: 236.0039.

2-[(4'-Chlorophenyl)thio]benzothiazole (**3af**). The desired product **3af** was synthesized from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 2,2'-dibenzothiazolyl disulfide (**2f**) (332 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) and recrystallization form hexane/AcOEt (9:1), gave **3af** (211 mg, 0.76 mmol, 76%) as a colorless plate crystal; $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane/AcOEt=4:1) (UV); mp 59.0–60.0 °C (Lit.²⁷ 60–61 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3079, 3058, 1454, 1390, 747, 723 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.36 (dt, J = 1.2 Hz, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dt, J = 1.2 Hz, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.84–7.87 (m, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 1.2 Hz, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 121.5, 121.8, 124.7, 126.5, 127.9, 130.3, 134.9, 137.0, 153.3; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C₁₃H₉CINS₂ [M + H⁺]: 277.9859, found: 277.9839.

4-[(4'-Chlorophenyl)thio]pyridine (**3ag**). Compound **3ag** was obtained from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dipyridyl

disulfide (**2g**) (220 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 2:3) gave **3ag** (144 mg, 0.65 mmol, 65%) as a brown solid; R_f = 0.40 (hexane/AcOEt = 2:3) (UV); mp 56.5–57.5 °C; FT-IR (neat) 3035, 1567, 1474, 1403, 1087, 822, 802 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.04 (dd, J = 1.6 Hz, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 4H), 8.38 (dd, J = 1.6 Hz, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 120.8, 127.8, 130.2, 134.9, 136.5, 148.3, 149.7; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{11}H_9CINS$ [M + H⁺]: 222.0139, found: 222.0126.

2-[(4'-Chlorophenyl)thio]pyridine (**3ah**). Following the general procedure, compound **3ah** was synthesized from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 2,2'-dipyridyl disulfide (**2h**) (220 mg, 1.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) afforded **3ah** (44 mg, 0.20 mmol, 20%) as a brown oil; R_f = 0.50 (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) (UV); FT-IR (neat) 3044, 2987, 1572, 1415, 1085, 755, 746 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.04 (td, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 4.4 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (dt, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (ddd, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 120.8, 121.5, 129.3, 129.8,

134.1, 136.2, 137.5, 149.7, 158.9; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C₁₁H₉CINS [M + H⁺]: 222.0139, found: 222.0120.

2-[(4'-Chlorophenyl)thio]-5-nitropyridine (3ai). The reaction of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a)(179)mg, 1.0 mmol) with 2,2'-dithiobis(5-nitropyridine) (2i) (310 mg, 1.0 mmol) was performed according to the general procedure to afford compound 3ai. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3ai** (249 mg, 0.93 mmol, 93%) as white needles; $R_f = 0.50$ (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) (UV); mp 136.0-137.5 °C (Lit. 28 136-138 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3053, 1568, 1508, 1343, 1089, 822, 747 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.21 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.40 (dd, J = 2.8 Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.18 (d, J = 2.8Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_{ϵ}) δ 120.5, 127.0, 130.2, 132.3, 135.4, 137.1, 141.6, 145.0, 167.5; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{11}H_8ClN_2O_2S$ [M + H⁺]: 266.9990, found: 266.9968.

1-Chloro-4-(methylthio)benzene (**3aj**). Compound **3aj** was obtained from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and dimethyl disulfide

(2j) (94 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane and 3aj (128 mg, 0.81 mmol, 81%) was obtained as a colorless oil; R_f = 0.30 (hexane) (UV); FT-IR (neat) 2984, 2919, 1474, 1093, 1010, 806 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.47 (s, 3H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.1, 127.9, 128.9, 130.9, 137.0; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C_7H_7ClS [M⁺]: 157.9957, found: 157.9960.

1-Chloro-4-(ethylthio)benzene (*3ak*). Compound **3ak** was prepared from 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and diethyl disulfide (**2k**) (122 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. The resulting crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography using hexane to give the corresponding product **3ak** (107 mg, 0.62 mmol, 62%) as a colorless oil; $R_f = 0.36$ (hexane) (UV); FT-IR (neat) 2973, 2927, 2870, 1474, 1093, 1010, 809 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 2.92 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 27.9, 128.9, 130.3, 131.7, 135.1; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C_8H_9ClS [M⁺]: 172.0113, found: 172.0113.

4-Fluorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3ba**). According to the general procedure, compound **3ba** was synthesized from 4-fluorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1b**) (163 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallized from hexane to give **3ba** (206 mg, 0.83 mmol, 83%) as a pale yellow sticky crystal; $R_f = 0.32$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 97.4–98.4 °C (Lit.²⁹ 97–99 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3091, 1502, 1332, 1077, 831 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.26 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dd, $J_{HF} = 9.0$ Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd, $J_{HF} = 5.4$ Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 117.5 (d, $J_{CF} = 22.9$ Hz), 124.3, 125.1, 126.5, 137.4 (d, $J_{CF} = 8.6$ Hz), 145.0, 147.7, 163.1 (d, $J_{CF} = 246.9$ Hz); HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_8FNO_2S$ [M⁺]: 249.0260, found: 249.0237.

4-Bromophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (3ca). The reaction of 4-bromophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1c)(224)mg, 1.0 mmol) with 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2a) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) was carried out according to the general procedure to provide the desired compound 3ca (220 mg, 0.71 mmol, 71%) as a pale yellow block crystal after column chromatography (hexane) and recrystallization

from hexane; R_f = 0.22 (hexane) (UV); mp 94.0–95.0 °C (Lit.³⁰ 94–96 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3092, 1504, 1334, 1008, 845, 742 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.33 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) d 123.4, 124.4, 127.4, 129.6, 133.2, 136.1, 145.3, 146.5; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_8BrNO_2S$ [M⁺]: 308.9459, found: 308.9447.

4-Nitrophenyl phenyl sulfide (**3da**). Compound **3da** was prepared from phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1d**) (145 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4′-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3da** (196 mg, 0.85 mmol, 85%) as a pale orange plate crystal; R_f = 0.18 (hexane) (UV); mp 55.0–56.0 °C (Lit.²³ 54–55 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3096, 3052, 1501, 1333, 741 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ7.27 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.59 (m, 5H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 124.3, 126.8, 129.7, 129.9, 130.3, 134.4, 145.0, 147.5; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}NO_2S$ [M+H⁺]: 232.0427, found: 232.0408.

4-Nitrophenyl 4'-tolyl sulfide (**3ea**). Compound **3ea** was synthesized from 4-tolylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1e**) (159 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3ea** (188 mg, 0.77 mmol, 77%) as pale yellow needles; $R_f = 0.30$ (hexane) (UV); mp 80.0–81.0 °C (Lit.²⁴ 78–79 °C); FT-IR (neat) 1508, 1338, 811, 738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ7.23 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.12 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ20.8, 124.3, 125.8, 126.2, 131.0, 134.9, 140.1, 144.8, 148.4; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}NO_2S$ [M⁺]: 245.0510, found: 245.0507.

4-Cyanophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3fa**). Following the general procedure, compound **3fa** was obtained from 4-cyanophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1f**) (170 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography with hexane/AcOEt = 4:1 to afford the desired compound **3fa** (140 mg, 0.55 mmol, 55%). Recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) afforded **3fa** as pale yellow needles; R_f = 0.46 (hexane/AcOEt = 4:1) (UV); mp 153.5–154.5 °C (Lit. 31 153–154 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3086, 2227, 1572,

1499, 1336, 825 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.55 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.21 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 110.8, 118.3, 124.6, 130.5, 131.9, 133.5, 139.2, 142.9, 146.4; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for C₁₃H₈N₂O₂S [M⁺]: 256.0306, found: 256.0288.

3-Nitrophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3ga**). ^{18a} Compound **3ga** was obtained from 3-nitrophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1g**) (190 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 7:1) afforded the desired product **3ga** (258 mg, 0.94 mmol, 94%) as a yellow powder; $R_f = 0.23$ (hexane/AcOEt = 7:1) (UV); mp 122.0–123.0 °C (decomp.); FT-IR (neat) 3088, 1540, 1512, 1337, 1315, 850, 841, 738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.84 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (ddd, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.34–8.38 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 115.8, 124.4, 125.2, 128.1, 128.5, 131.2, 142.1, 147.2, 148.6, 151.3; HRMS (DART-TOFMS, neg) calcd for $C_{12}H_7N_2O_4S$ [M – H⁺]: 275.0132, found: 275.0149.

4-(Methylthio)nitrobenzene (3hj). Following the general procedure, compound **3hj** was synthesized from 4-nitrophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1h**) (190 mg, 1.0 mmol) and dimethyl disulfide (**2j**) (94 mg, 1.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt =9:1) and recrystallization from hexane gave **3hj** (105 mg, 0.62 mmol, 62%) as a pale brown plate crystal; $R_f = 0.30$ (hexane/AcOEt = 9:1) (UV); mp 69.4–70.4 °C (Lit.³² 65–67 °C); FT-IR (neat) 3092, 3001, 2915, 1583, 1505, 1330, 1092, 829, 737 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 2.59 (s, 3H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 14.0, 123.8, 125.3, 144.1, 149.0; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_7H_7NO_2S$ [M⁺]: 169.0197, found: 169.0195.

3,4-Dichlorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (3ia). Compound 3ia was obtained from 3,4-dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1i) (214 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2a) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallized from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) to give 3ia (251 mg, 0.84 mmol, 84%) as white needles; R_f = 0.22 (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 110.0–111.0 °C; FT-IR (neat) 3088, 3058, 1579, 1500, 1336, 1079, 1032, 839, 812, 739 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_s) δ 7.41 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 2.3 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H),

7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) d 124.5, 128.2, 131.5, 132.1, 132.5, 132.6, 133.8, 135.0, 145.4, 145.6; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_7Cl_2NO_2S$ [M⁺]: 298.9575, found: 298.9550.

2,4-Dichlorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3ja**). Compound **3ja** was synthesized from 2,4-dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1j**) (214 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol) according to the general procedure. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3ja** (198 mg, 0.66 mmol, 66%) as a pale brown block crystal; $R_f = 0.20$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 76.0–77.0 °C; FT-IR (neat) 3095, 1575, 1506, 1336, 1084, 1033, 846, 810, 742 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.35 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dd, J = 2.3 Hz, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 124.5, 127.9, 128.5, 128.9, 130.3, 135.6, 137.2, 138.0, 144.3, 145.7; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_7Cl_2NO_2S$ [M $^+$]: 298.9575, found: 298.9549.

3,5-Dichlorophenyl 4'-nitrophenyl sulfide (**3ka**). Following the general procedure, the product **3ka** was synthesized from 3,5-dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1k**) (214 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) and recrystallization from hexane/AcOEt (9:1) gave **3ka** (218 mg, 0.73 mmol, 73%) as a white block crystal; $R_f = 0.19$ (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) (UV); mp 93.5–94.5 °C; FT-IR (neat) 3071, 1556, 1506, 1330, 1082, 840, 797, 666 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.48 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 124.5, 128.9, 129.1, 131.1, 135.2, 144.3, 146.0; HRMS (DART-TOFMS) calcd for $C_{12}H_7Cl_2NO_2S$ [M⁺]: 298.9575, found: 298.9548.

Large-Scale Synthesis of 3aa. Compound **3aa** was prepared from a mixture of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**1a**) (3.58 g, 20.0 mmol), 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (**2a**) (6.17 g, 20.0 mmol), and cesium carbonate (6.52 g, 20.0 mmol) in DMSO (60 mL) under air, according to the general procedure. The reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and completed after 24 h. Purification by column chromatography (inner diameter: 5 cm and length: 30 cm) over silica gel (hexane/AcOEt = 95:5) gave product **3aa** (4.16 g, 79%) in a pure form.

Radical-Trapping Experiment with TEMPO. To a mixture of 4-chlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (1a) (179 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4,4'-dinitrodiphenyl disulfide (2a) (308 mg, 1.0 mmol), and cesium carbonate (326 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), TEMPO (313 mg, 2.0 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature under an argon atmosphere for 24 h. The resulting solution was quenched by the addition of water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with water and brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a crude product. Purification by column chromatography over 4-chloro-1-(2',2',6',6'silica gel afforded 3aa (19%)and tetramethylpiperidinyloxy)benzene (4) (40 mg, 15%).Compound 4 was recrystallized from hexane to give a colorless plate crystal; $R_f = 0.62$ (hexane); mp 89.5–90.5 °C (Lit. 21 89.5–90.5 °C); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (s, 6H), 1.21 (s, 6H), 1.38-1.44 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.68 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 2H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.0, 20.4, 32.5, 39.7, 60.4, 115.2, 124.3, 128.5, 162.2.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR spectra, and calibration curve for **3aa**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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