JOC The Journal of Organic Chemistry

Article

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J. Org. Chem., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • Publication Date (Web): 27 Jun 2017

ACS Publications

The Journal of Organic Chemistry is published by the American Chemical Society. 1155 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Vanadium–Catalyzed Oxidative C(CO)–C(CO) Bond Cleavage for C–N Bond Formation: One Pot Domino Transformation of 1,2-Diketones and Amidines into Imides and Amides

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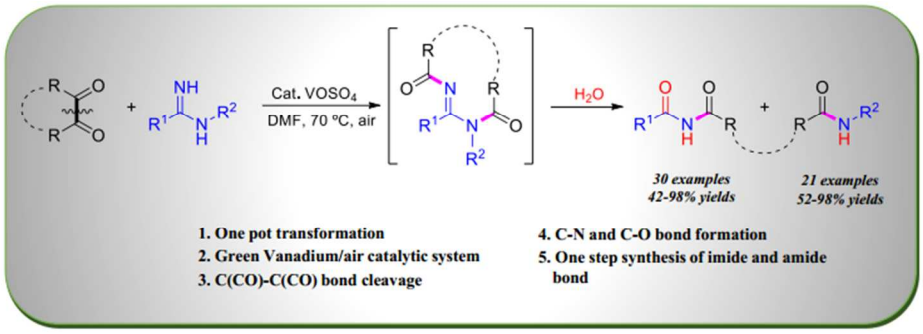
Abstract:



A novel vanadium-catalyzed one pot domino reaction of 1,2-diketones with amidines has been identified that enables their transformation into imides and amides. The reaction proceeds by dual acylation of amidines via oxidative C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage of 1,2-diketones to afford *N,N'*-diaroyl-*N*-arylbenzamidine intermediates. In the reaction, these intermediates are easily hydrolyzed into imides and amides through vanadium catalysis. This method provides a practical, simple and mild synthetic approach to access a variety of imides as well as amides in

high yields. Moreover, one step construction of imide and amide bond with long chain alkyl group is an attractive feature of this protocol.

Introduction:

Imides are the key structural motifs in many natural products as well as pharmaceutical agents,[1] and also appear as important precursors in a variety of reactions.[2] Accordingly, imide synthesis was explored extensively and many improved methods were developed in the past few decades.[3] However, use of sophisticated reagents, low yield of imides, limited substrate availability and product diversity are some limitations for most of them. The efficient routes for the synthesis of imides rely on direct oxidation of *N*-alkylbenzamides[4] (Figure 1a) and cerric ammonium nitrate (CAN) promoted oxidation of 4,5-diphenyloxazoles (Figure 1b).[5] In addition, Fe/Cu-catalyzed direct coupling of amides with thioesters[6] and aldehydes[7] also provided access to a variety of imides. Moreover, Guan and co-workers reported the Pd-catalyzed aminocarbonylation of aryl iodides with amides for the rapid synthesis of imides (Figure 1c).[8] It is noteworthy that in most of these methods, stoichiometric or excess amount of oxidants, sometimes additives or special preparation of the substrates are required for the synthesis of imides. Hence, development of simple, inexpensive, greener and high yielding methods for the preparation of imides from easily accessible starting materials are of considerable importance, especially which could be operative under oxidant and additive free conditions.

Over the past years, the prominence of C–C bond cleavage has grown increasingly, because these reactions provide multifarious molecular transformations that are otherwise hard to achieve.[9,10] Among them, the C(CO)–C(α) bond cleavage of ketones has evolved as a powerful tool for the construction of many organic functional groups such as acids,[11] aldehydes,[12] esters,[13] and α-ketoesters[14] *etc*. Moreover, some remarkable approaches on Cu-catalyzed direct aerobic

oxidative C–N bond formation utilizing C(CO)–C(α) bond cleavage of ketones have also been reported.[15]

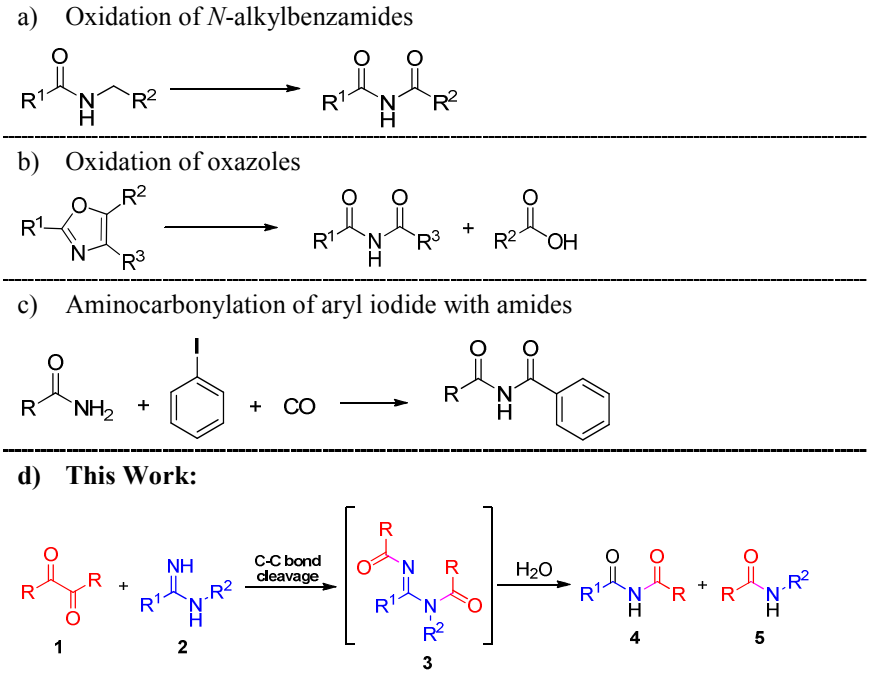


Figure 1. Comparison of previous approaches with the present method developed for the synthesis of Imides

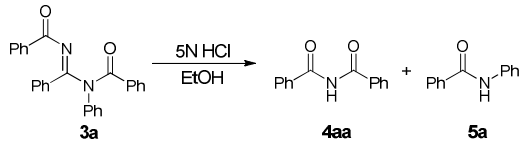
Vanadium is nontoxic, inexpensive, readily available, and also present in various bacterial enzymes.[16] Several research groups have explored the potential utility of vanadium based catalysts to afford oxidative C–C bond cleavage of ditertiary glycols,[17] α-hydroxyketones or ketones,[18] and catechols[19] *etc*. Although, the synthetic utility of C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage of 1,2-diketones for their transformation into acids and/or esters is also well documented in the literature,[20] but a metal catalytic system for direct C–N bond formation through C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage has not been realized till to date. Herein, we report a novel vanadium catalyzed oxidative C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage reaction of 1,2-diketones (**1**) with *N*-arylamidines (**2**) for C–N bond formation, which allows their transformation into imides (**4**) and amides (**5**) through

hydrolysis of in-situ generated *N,N′*-diaroyl-*N*-arylbenzamidines (**3**) in a one pot manner (Figure 1d).

Results and Discussion:

In 1952, Peak reported that the acidic hydrolysis of *N,N′*-dibenzoyl-*N*-phenylbenzamidine (**3a**) provided *N*-benzoylbenzamide (**4aa**) and benzanilide (**5a**) by the reaction at the amidino carbon center (Figure 2a).[21] Moreover, a photosensitized auto-oxidation of tetra-phenylimidazole into **3a,** probably via ring opening of dioxetane intermediate, was described by the group of Wasserman (Figure 2b).[22] These investigations led us to question whether 1) the C(CO)–C(CO) bond of 1,2-diketones could be activated with *N*-arylamidines in presence of appropriate metal catalyst to provide the corresponding *N,N′*-diaroyl-*N*-arylbenzamidines (**3**); 2) the hydrolysis of **3** could be secured under mild conditions by employing Lewis acid metal catalyst to activate *N′*-carbonyl group, as it might promote electron deficiency at amidino carbon atom due to keto-imine conjugation.

a) Acidic hydrolysis of *N,N′*-dibenzoyl-*N*-phenylbenzamidine (**3a**)



b) Photooxidation of tetraphenylimidazole

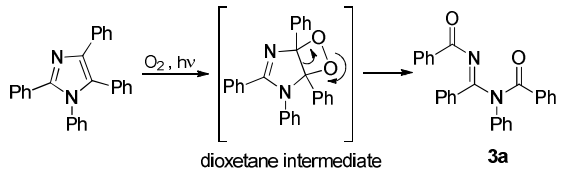


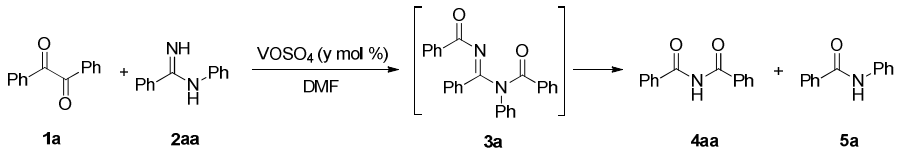
Figure 2. Previous reports on *N,N′*-dibenzoyl-*N′*-phenylbenzamidine (**3a**)

To test this concept, we commenced our research with the screening of 20 mol% of various metal catalysts for the model reaction of benzil (**1a**), *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2aa**) and H_2O

using dry *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) as solvent under air atmosphere (Supporting information (SI), Table S1). These experiments disclosed that the frequently used copper sources ($Cu(OAc)_2$, $CuCl_2$, CuBr, CuI and $Cu(OTf)_2$) could activate the C(CO)–C(CO) bond to afford **3a** in 26-55% yields after 48 h at room temperature. Interestingly, in presence of more acidic $Cu(OTf)_2$, the hydrolyzed products **4aa** and **5a** were also obtained in 21% and 22% yields, respectively. However, further modification in the reaction conditions using $Cu(OTf)_2$ did not give satisfying results and other tested metal catalysts such as silver based catalysts, $In(OTf)_3$, $Zn(OTf)_2$, $Sc(OTf)_3$, $FeCl_3$ were found ineffective for this transformation.

Very recently, we reported that an inexpensive and less toxic vanadium salt, vanadyl sulphate ($VOSO_4$), is a highly efficient catalyst for the transformation of **1a** and *o*-phenylenediamines into quinaoxalines.[23] With this knowledge base, the model reaction was carried out in the presence of 20 mol% of $VOSO_4$ at room temperature. Gratifyingly, **3a** was obtained in 96% yield after 8 h (entry 1, Table 1). The reaction did not show improvements with varying amount of water (entry 2 and 3, Table 1). The hydrolysis of **3a** was very slow at room temperature and **3a** remain un-reacted even after a week (entry 4, Table 1). However, heating the reaction mixture at 70 ºC for a period of 20 h afforded **4aa** and **5a** in 97% and 96% yields respectively, with complete consumption of **3a** (entry 5, Table 1). Furthermore, the variation in the reaction temperature did not give superior results in terms of reaction time or yield of the products (entry 6 and 7, Table 1). The subsequent exploration of the effect of catalyst loading proved that 20 mol% of $VOSO_4$ was optimal for the reaction (entry 8 and 9, Table 1). Among various tested common solvents, DMF appeared to be the best solvent in terms of yield and reaction time (SI, Table S2). Thus, 20 mol% $VOSO_4$, 70 ºC and DMF are the optimal conditions to obtain **4aa** and **5a** in excellent yields (entry 5, Table 1).

Table 1: Optimization of the reaction conditions using $VOSO_4$ in DMF. [a]



1a **2aa** **3a** **4aa** **5a**

Entry	$VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (y mol %)	H_2O (equiv.)	*T* [°C]	Time (h)	Yield of products (%)[b]		
					3a	**4aa**	**5a**
1[c]	20	H_2O (5)	rt	8	96	trace	trace
2[c]	20	H_2O (10)	rt	8	94	trace	trace
3[c]	20	H_2O (2.5)	rt	8	85	trace	trace
4[c]	20	H_2O (5)	rt	168	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
5	**20**	**H_2O (5)**	**70**	**20**	**0**	**97**	**96**
6	20	H_2O (5)	60	32	0	92	91
7	20	H_2O (5)	80	18	0	87	92
8	30	H_2O (5)	70	20	0	94	95
9	10	H_2O (5)	70	30	0	89	92
10[d]	20	H_2O (5)	70	20	47	50	52
11[e]	20	H_2O (5)	70	17	0	87	90
12[f]	20	H_2O (5)	70	17	19	trace	trace

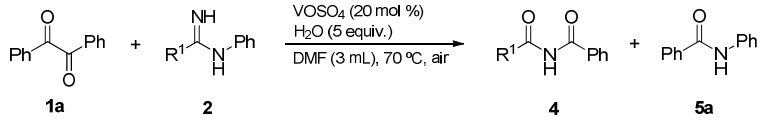
[a]Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol of **1a** and 0.6 mmol of **2a** in presence of $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ in dry DMF (3 mL) under air. [b]Isolated yields of pure products based on **1a**. [c]The reaction was run at room temperature. [d]The reaction was run under N_2 balloon. [e]The reaction was run under O_2 balloon. [f]The reaction was run in dry DMF under O_2 balloon with 4 Å molecular sieves; 74% of **1a** was recovered. n.d. : not determined.

To investigate the role of $VOSO_4$ on the hydrolysis of **3a**, two control experiments with and without $VOSO_4$ were carried out. The results revealed that the hydrolysis of **3a** did certainly occur only in the presence of $VOSO_4$ (SI, control experiments, eqs S1 and S2). Next, to shed light on the role of dioxygen in this one pot process, the reaction was performed under nitrogen atmosphere. After 20 h, **4aa** and **5a** were obtained with lower conversion of **3a** (entry 10, Table 1). Likewise, the hydrolysis of **3a** was also slow under anaerobic conditions (SI, control experiments, eq S3). These results indicate that oxygen is not required for C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage as well as catalyst turnover, although it does increase the rate of reaction (entry 11, Table 1). Furthermore, when the model reaction was performed in anhydrous conditions under O_2 atmosphere, 74 % of **1a**, 19 % of **3a**, and traces of **4aa** and **5a** were obtained (entry 12, Table

1). These results strongly suggests that water is the crucial component for this one pot transformation.

After adopting the optimal reaction conditions, various amidines (**2**) were investigated with **1a** for the synthesis of imides considering *N*-phenylbenzamide (**5a**) as a by-product (Table 2). To our delight, both electron-rich (**2ab** and **2ah**) and electron-deficient (**2ac**-**2ag**) substituents arylamidines provided excellent yields of the corresponding imide products (**4ab**-**4ah,** Table 2). Notably, halo-substituents at *meta*- and *ortho*-positions on the aryl ring affected only the reaction times but not the yields (**4ad**, **4ae** and **4ag**, Table 2). It was observed that electron-donating substituents arylamidines react faster with **1a** than electron-deficient ones and favor formation of the corresponding intermediates (**3**). On the other hand, hydrolysis of the intermediates to their corresponding imides and **5a** was faster with electron-deficient substituents arylamidines than electron-donating ones. This could be due to the fact that electron-deficient group decreases the nucleophilicity of nitrogen atom to attack carbonyl groups but increases electron deficiency at amidino carbon atom for water attack. Steric effects could be observed in the case of 2-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzmidamide (**2ai**) and the reaction afforded imide product (**4ai**, Table 2) in 42% yield. In addition, ortho- and meta- di-substituted arylamidines (**2aj** and **2ak**) also provided good yields of corresponding imide products (**4aj** and **4ak**, Table 2). Heterocycle-derived amidines such as *N*-phenylthiophene-2-carboximidamide (**2al**), *N*-phenylfuran-2-carboximidamide (**2am**), 2-chloro-*N*-phenylnicotinimidamide (**2an**) and *N*-phenylisonicotinimidamide (**2ao**) reacted smoothly to yield the corresponding imide products (**4al**-**4ao,** Table 2) in 84-94% yields. Moreover, the reaction of amidines bearing cyclopropyl- (**2ap)** and 1-propyl- (**2aq**) groups do not affect the efficiency of the method and the corresponding imides (**4ap** and **4aq**, Table 2) were obtained in 88% and 80% yields, respectively.

Table 2: One pot synthesis of imides: Substrate scope of amidines.[a]



1a **2** **4** **5a**

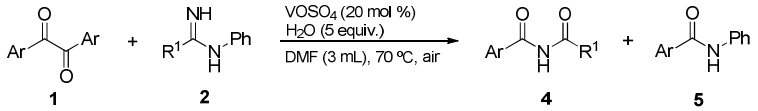
Entry	Amidine (**2**)	Time (h)	Yield of products (%)[b]	
			Imide (**4**)	Amide (**5a**)
1	R = H **(2aa)**	20	97 **(4aa)**	96
2	4-OMe **(2ab)**	18	91 **(4ab)**	96
3	4-Cl **(2ac)**	18	98 **(4ac)**	95
4	3-Cl **(2ad)**	24	96 **(4ad)**	98
5	2-Cl **(2ae)**	36	96 **(4ae)**	94
6	4-Br **(2af)**	18	92 **(4af)**	96
7	3-Br **(2ag)**	22	92 **(4ag)**	91
8	4-Me **(2ah)**	22	95 **(4ah)**	98
9[c]	2-Me **(2ai)**	96	42 **(4ai)**	45
10	**(2aj)**	24	82 (**4aj**)	78
11	**(2ak)**	32	90 (**4ak**)	92
12	**(2al)**	24	89 **(4al)**	93
13	**(2am)**	18	94 **(4am)**	98
14	**(2an)**	36	92 **(4an)**	91
15	**(2ao)**	24	84 **(4ao)**	92
16	**(2ap)**	18	88 **(4ap)**	93
17	**(2aq)**	28	80 **(4aq)**	84

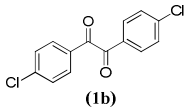
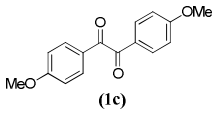
[a]Standard reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), H_2O (2.5 mmol, 45 µL) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (0.1 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL), at 70 ºC, under air. [b]Isolated yields. [c]Accompanied by 35% of unreacted corresponding intermediate

Next, the reactivity of symmetrical 1,2-diketones (**1b** and **1c**) towards various amidines was studied (Table 3). Comparable results with regard to yields were obtained, when 1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (**1b**) was reacted with amidines containing aromatic (**2aa**, **2ad**

and **2af**), heterocyclic (**2al-2an**), aliphatic (**2ap** and **2aq**) partners, affording the corresponding imides (**4ac**, **4ar-4ay**, Table 3) in 82-96% yields within 24 h. Notably, **2ai** also underwent smooth conversion to furnish imide product (**4at**, Table 3) in 91% yield. This effect

Table 3: One pot synthesis of imides: Substrate scope of 1,2-diketones.[a]



Entry	1,2-Diketone (**1**)	Amidine (**2**)	Time (h)	Yield of products (%)[b]	
				Imide (**4**)	Amide (**5**)
1	 (1b)	**2aa**	16	96 (**4ac**)	97 (**5b**)
2		**2ad**	18	95 (**4ar**)	97 (**5b**)
3		**2af**	16	89 (**4as**)	93 (**5b**)
4		**2ai**	16	91 (**4at**)	94 (**5b**)
5		**2al**	18	90 (**4au**)	93 (**5b**)
6		**2am**	18	91 (**4av**)	94 (**5b**)
7		**2an**	24	90 (**4aw**)	92 (**5b**)
8		**2ap**	18	84 (**4ax**)	88 (**5b**)
9		**2aq**	18	82 (**4ay**)	85 (**5b**)
10[c]	 (1c)	**2aa**	72	85 (**4ab**)	88 (**5c**)
11[c]		**2ac**	72	82 (**4az**)	83 (**5c**)
12[c,d]		**2ah**	96	77 (**4ba**)	80 (**5c**)
13[c]		**2ap**	72	86 (**4bb**)	87 (**5c**)

[a]Standard reaction conditions: **1** (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), H_2O (2.5 mmol, 45 μL) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (0.1 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL), at 70 ºC, under air. [b]Isolated yields. [c]Accompanied by unreacted **1c**: 5% with **2aa**, 10% with **2ac**, 8% with **2ah**, 6% with **2ap**. [d]Accompanied by 10% of the corresponding intermediate.

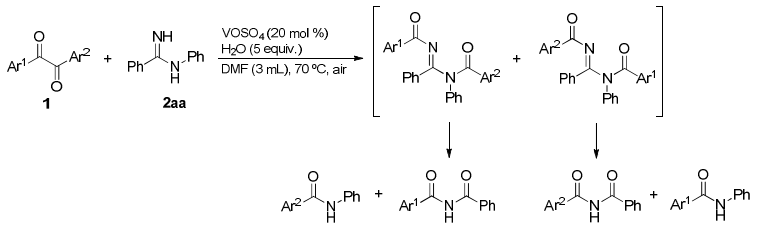
can be allied to increased reactivity of carbonyl groups of **1b** due to chloro-substituents, and thereby amidines react faster with **1b** than **1a**. Moreover, chloro-substituents on aryl ring of **1b**

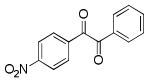
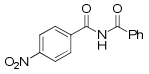
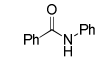
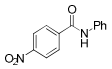
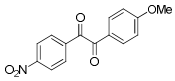
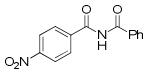
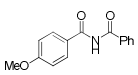
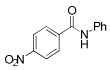
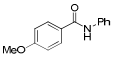
also facilitates the hydrolysis of the corresponding intermediate. As expected, 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (**1c**) reacted very slowly with amidines due to decreased electrophilicity of carbonyl groups and required much longer reaction times (72-96 h) to obtain good yields (77-86%) of the corresponding imide products (**4ab**, **4az**-**4bb**, Table 3). The effect of electron-withdrawing groups on the aryl ring of amidines for the hydrolysis of intermediates is more obvious when we compare the reactions of **1c** with **2ac** and **2ah** in the generation of imides (**4az** and **4ba**, Table 3). In the case of 4-chloro-*N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2ac**), the corresponding intermediate was not obtained after 72 h, whereas 10% of corresponding intermediate was observed with 4-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2ah**) even after 96 h.

In the present protocol, it could be expected that unsymmetrical 1,2-diketone can give two corresponding intermediates with amidine, and as a result of their hydrolysis, four products (two imides and two amides) will exist in the reaction mixture. As evident from Table 4, the reaction of 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (**1d**) with **2aa** certainly provided two imides (42% **4aa** and 44% **4bc,** Table 4) and two amides (45% **5a** and 42% **5d,** Table 4), however it was somewhat disappointing as no selectivity was observed in the formation of these products. A comparable result was also obtained with **1e** and the products (**4bc**, **4ab**, **5b** and **5d,** Table 4) were isolated in 38-41% yields. It is noteworthy that in all the above reactions, the amide derivatives were also obtained in high yields.

Amides, as one of the most important classes of *N*-containing organic compounds, are known to be present in proteins, natural products, bioactive compounds and agrochemicals.[24] In recent years, constant efforts targeted efficient catalytic methods for the construction of omnipresent amide bond.[25] Despite significant advancement in this area, there is still continuing need for

Table 4: One pot reaction of unsymmetrical 1,2-diketones with **2aa**.[a]

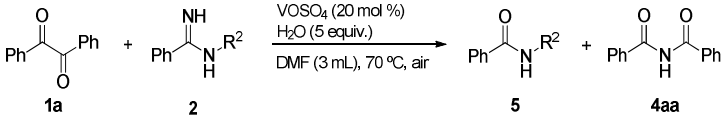


Entry	1,2-Diketones (**1**)	Yield of the products[b]			
		Imides (**4**)		Amides (**5**)	
1	 (**1d**)	 44% (**4bc**)	 42% (**4aa**)	 45% (**5a**)	 42% (**5d**)
2	 (**1e**)	 40% (**4bc**)	 41% (**4ab**)	 38% (**5d**)	 40% (**5b**)

[a]Standard reaction conditions: **1** (0.5 mmol), **2aa** (0.6 mmol), H_2O (2.5 mmol, 45 µL) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (0.1 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL), at 70 ºC, under air for 12 h.

development of new synthetic methods for amide bond synthesis. Therefore, we turned to explore the scope and limitation of present protocol for the amide synthesis (Table 5). In general, amidines containing electron-donating groups such as methoxy- (**2ar**), trimethoxy- (**2as**), methyl- (**2aw**) and *i*-propyl- (**2ax**) as well as halogen substituents (**2at**-**2av**) reacted efficiently with **1a** and afforded the corresponding amide derivatives (**5e**-**5k**, Table 5) in 92-98% yields. However, the position of chloro-substituent (*para*- and *meta*-) has obvious effect on the reaction time (8 h for **5g** and 6 h for **5h**, Table 5). This effect of chloro-substituents present on the amidines is probably due to the reduction of electron-donor capacity of the nitrogen atom and thereby promoting electron deficiency at the amidino carbon atom for facilitating attack by water molecule. Moreover, this method becomes valuable for *N*-benzoylation of heat sensitive electron-rich anilines (**5e** and **5f**) and electron deficient anilines (**5g**-**5i**). In the case of *N*-

Table 5: Substrate scope for one pot synthesis of amides.[a]



1a 2 5 4aa

Entry	Amidine (**2**)	Time (h)	Yield of products (%)[b]	
			Amide (**5**)	Imide (**4aa**)
1	R= 4-OMe (**2ar**)	18	97 (**5e**)	96
2	3,4,5-OMe (**2as**)	24	95 (**5f**)	93
3	4-Cl (**2at**)	8	98 (**5g**)	96
4	3-Cl (**2au**)	6	98 (**5h**)	95
5	4-F (**2av**)	24	94 (**5i**)	92
6	4-Me (**2aw**)	18	97 (**5j**)	94
7	4-*i*-propyl (**2ax**)	24	92 (**5k**)	89
8	2,4,6-Me (**2ay**)	96	76 (**5l**)	74
9	(**2az**)	48	74 (**5m**)	76
10	(**2ba**)	96	52 (**5n**)	58
11	(**2bb**)	12	n.r.	n.r.
12	(**2bc**)	24	95 (**5o**)	95
13	(**2bd**)	18	97 (**5p**)	94
14	(**2be**)	24	86 (**5q**)	28
15	(**2bf**)	18	83 (**5r**)	15
	5s: 18 h, 93 % **4ac**: 91 %		**5t**: 96 h, 80 % **4ab**: 74 %	

[a]Standard reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), H_2O (2.5 mmol, 45 µL) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (0.1 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL), at 70 ºC, under air. [b]Isolated yields. n.r. : no reaction

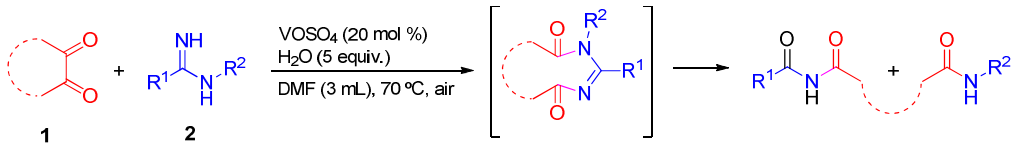
mesitylbenzamide (**2ay**), only 76% yield of amide product (**5l**, Table 5) was obtained due to considerable steric hindrance of methyl groups. The aliphatic partners such as cyclopropyl-(**2az**) and 2-pentyl-(**2ba**) of amidines provided moderate yields of corresponding amide products (**5m**

and **5n**, Table 5). Disappointingly, the reaction did not proceed, when *N*-(*tert*-butyl)benzimidamide (**2bb**) was employed in the reaction. Furthermore, pyridine-derived amidines (**2bc** and **2bd**) transformed smoothly under optimal conditions and provided amides (**5o** and **5p,** Table 5**)** in 95% and 97% yields, respectively. Although, the reaction of *N*-(pyridin-2-yl)benzimidamide (**2be**) and *N*-(5-bromopyridin-2- yl)benzimidamide (**2bf**) also afforded good yields of the corresponding amide products (**5q** and **5r**, Table 5), surprisingly their corresponding imide product (**4aa**) was obtained in 28 and 15% yields, respectively with some amount of unidentified products. These results indicate that alternative reactivity of these amidines (**2be** and **2bf**) is involved in the generation of corresponding amide products. These reactions are our focus for future development of new synthetic methods. Furthermore, a similar scope was observed for the synthesis of amides (**5s** and **5t**, Table 5), when the reaction of **1b** and **1c** was carried out with **2aw** and **2ar,** respectively.

Overall, the present method displayed high functional group tolerance and the synthesis of two most important *N*-containing class of compounds *i.e.* imides and amides in moderate to high yields. Moreover, the scope of 1,2-diketones could also be extended to cyclohexane-1,2-dione (**1f**), but we ended up with low yields (33-41%) of the target products (**6a**-**6c**, Table 6) and many by-products. However, the reaction of biacetyl (**1g**) with **2ar** provided corresponding imide (**4bd**, Table 6) and amide (**5u**) products in 74 % and 78 % yields, respectively. It may be noted that in the case of **1f**, the corresponding intermediates were not observed during the reaction by TLC analysis, which could be attributed to the rapid hydrolysis of the intermediates into **6a**-**6c**. The lower yields of these products might be correlated with increased side reactions due to enolic form of **1f** or by the decomposition of the product formed. In spite of the low yield of these products, this approach represents an interesting research area for future catalyst

development, by which imide and amide bond construction with long chain alkyl group can be achieved in one step.

Table 6: Reaction of aliphatic 1,2-diketones with amidines.[a]



1 **2**

Entry	1,2-Diketone (**1**)	Amidine (**2**)	Time (h)	Yield of products[b]
1[c]		**2aa**	8	**6a**: 33 %
2[c]	**(1f)**	**2ar**	6	**6b**: 38 %
3[c]		**2ap**	8	**6c**: 41 %
4	**(1g)**	**2ar**	24	**4bd**: 74% / **5u**: 78 %

[a]Standard reaction conditions: **1** (1 mmol), **2** (1.2 mmol), H_2O (5 mmol, 90 μL) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (0.2 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL), at 70 °C, under air; [b]Isolated yield. [c]The reaction was monitored until complete consumption of **1f**.

Next, in order to elucidate the reaction mechanism of C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage of 1,2-diketones, some control experiments were carried out. It was found that benzil (**1a**) does not undergo C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage to afford benzoic acid under standard conditions at room temperature (SI, control experiments, eq S4). In addition, the reaction of benzaldehyde and 1,2-diphenylethanone with *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**2aa**) exclude the possibility of imine formation (SI, control experiments, eqs S5 and S6). The reaction proceeds through direct nucleophilic addition of amidine to 1,2-diketone to produce tertiary vicinal diol intermediate, which rapidly

undergo C–C bond cleavage in the presence of $VOSO_4$. The vanadium catalyst is not likely to produce the cyclic intermediates as in the case of C–C bond cleavage of 1,2-diols with higher valence inorganic oxidants, such as periodates and lead tetracarboxylates. In the case of lead tetracarboxylates oxidation, *cis*-glycols react much faster than *trans*-glycols,[26] whereas, cyclic *trans*-glycols are usually inactive in the case of oxidation by periodates, probably due to difficulty in the formation of cyclic intermediates.[27] It was reported that both cyclic *cis*- and *trans*-ditertiary glycols similarly undergo oxidative cleavage in the presence of vanadium oxytrichloride ($VOCl_3$).[17]

Further, in the absence of **1a** and **2aa**, a mixture of 16 mg of $VOSO_4$ and H_2O (45 μL) in dry DMF (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature under air. A dark violet homogenous reaction mixture was observed after 2 h (SI, page S6). The dark violet color has been proven for vanadium (V) species for the aerobic oxidation of alcohols with $VOSO_4$/TEMPO catalytic system.[28] The dark violet color turns black on addition of **1a** and **2aa**, which then turned green after stirring the reaction mixture for 8 h at room temperature. The green color of the reaction mixture is suggested for the presence of vanadium (IV) species.[29] A similar color change was also observed, when **3a** was added to the dark violet mixture of $VOSO_4$ in DMF. Interestingly, the reaction mixture did not produce dark violet color, when a mixture of $VOSO_4$ and H_2O in dry DMF was stirred for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere. These results indicate that a V^{V}-V^{IV} catalytic cycle in water may participate in the present one pot process. Molecular oxygen probably shows its effect by accelerating the oxidation of V^{IV} to V^{V} species. However, the role of DMF in the oxidation of vanadium is not clear at this stage. Recently, Wang and co-workers demonstrated the $VOSO_4$ catalyzed transformation of cellulose and its derived carbohydrates into formic and lactic acids in water.[30] The redox conversion between VO_2^+ and VO^{2+} species

participated in the transformation of glucose into formic acid under oxygen atmosphere. An electron-transfer and oxygen-transfer (ET-OT) mechanism was proposed for oxidative C–C bond cleavage of intermediary glyceraldehyde to produce formic acid on the basis of the polyoxometalate $H_5PV_2Mo_{10}O_{40}$-catalyzed transformation.[31] In this mechanism, two V^V species are required to accept two electrons from the substrate at the same time to be reduced to V^{IV} and donate one O atom at the same time.

On the basis of the aforementioned results and the literature reports, we speculate that the C–C bond cleavage of 1,2-diketones may also follow the ET-OT mechanism. A plausible mechanism following the redox conversion of VO_2^+/VO^{2+} is proposed in Figure 3. The reaction is initiated by the activation of 1,2-diketone by two VO_2^+ species or its hydrolyzed form ($H_2VO_3^+$) in water,[32] in the next step, the nucleophilic addition of amidines produce a binuclear V^V

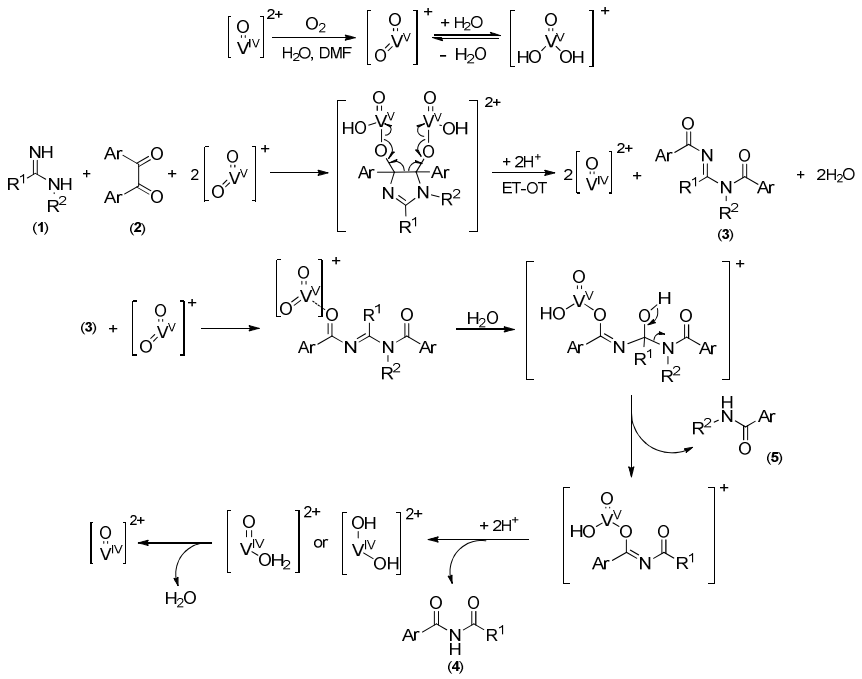


Figure 3. Mechanistic proposal

intermediate coordinated by tetra-substituted imidazolyl ring. Each V^V center reduces to V^{IV} by accepting one electron from the V–O bond connected to the C–O bond. This leads to the formation of two C=O bonds and the simultaneous cleavage of the C–C bond to produce **3**. The reduced VO^{2+} reoxidized into VO_2^+ in our aerobic reaction conditions. The VO_2^+ cation may act as a Lewis acid[33] to catalyze the hydrolysis of **3**. The VO_2^+ cation activates carbonyl group of **3** and promotes electron deficiency at amidino carbon atom**.** The water attacks at amidino carbon atom to afford **5** and V^V intermediate coordinated by **4**. This V^V intermediate produces **4** and hydrolyzed form of vanadium (IV) species ($H_2VO_2^{2+}$) in the presence of water.[34] The $H_2VO_2^{2+}$ form gets converted to VO^{2+} cation after elimination of water.

In conclusion, a new facile and efficient one pot domino route for the synthesis of imides and amides from easily accessible 1,2-diketones and amidines via oxidative C(CO)–C(CO) bond cleavage has been developed. The reaction employs an inexpensive, less toxic and water soluble vanadium catalyst. A series of imide as well as amide derivatives could be easily synthesized under oxidant and additive free conditions. One step construction of imide and amide bond with long chain alkyl group is another important feature of this protocol. This transformation is proposed to proceed through redox conversion between VO_2^+ and VO^{2+} cation, and further mechanistic investigation including the interaction of $VOSO_4$ with 1,2-diketones, amidines and DMF at molecular level are underway.

Experimental Section:

General information: Unless otherwise specified, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and were used as received. Vanadium (IV) sulfate oxide hydrate ($VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$, 99.9%) was purchased from Alfa-Aesar. MERCK precoated silica gel $60_{F\text{-}254}$

(0.5 mm) aluminum plates were used for thin layer chromatography (TLC) and visualization of the spots on TLC plates was achieved by UV light. Melting points were measured on a Stuart™ melting point apparatus SMP3. ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 MHz instrument using tetramethyl silane (TMS) as the internal standard. Chemical shifts for ^{1}H and ^{13}C are expressed in parts per million (ppm) relative to resonance in TMS at δ 0.00 or DMSO-d_6 at 2.50 for ^{1}H NMR and δ 39.9 for ^{13}C NMR. Coupling constant (*J*) values are reported in hertz (Hz). HRMS were determined with Agilent QTOF mass spectrometer 6540 series instrument.

General procedures for the synthesis of 1,2-diketones (1b-1e):

General procedure for the preparation of deoxybenzoins[35]: To a solution of substituted phenylacetic acid (50 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 mL) was added thionyl chloride (75.0 mmol) and dimethylformamide (0.05 mmol) and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The solvent was removed under vacuum to provide arylacetyl chlorides in quantitative yield, which was used without further purification. The arylacetyl chloride was stirred with appropriate benzene derivatives (500 mmol) at 0 ºC. Anhydrous aluminium chloride (62.5 mmol) was added slowly portion-wise maintaining the internal temperature below 5 ºC. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred until acid chloride was completely consumed as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was then poured onto ice-water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified over silica gel (60–120 mesh) using hexane:ethylacetate (19:1) as the eluent to give the corresponding deoxybenzoin derivatives.

General procedure for the oxidation of deoxybenzoins[36]: To a solution of deoxybenzoin derivatives (5 mmol) in DMSO (50 mL) was added selenium dioxide (7.5 mmol) and irradiated

in the microwave oven (domestic household oven 650 W) for 5 min at 40 ºC. The reaction mixture was filtered while hot to remove the selenium metal and was poured onto ice-water mixture to precipitate the crude product. The crude product was collected, dried and purified over silica gel using hexane:ethylacetate (19:1) as the eluent to provide corresponding 1,2-diketones (**1b-1e**).

General procedures for the synthesis of amidines (2)[37]**:**

Method A: A round bottom flask (100 mL in volume) was charged with NaH (60% in mineral oil) (15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), sealed with a rubber septum, evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen using balloon. DMSO (5 ml) was added and the resulting suspension cooled with an ice-water bath prior to the addition of carbonitrile (10.0 mmol) and aniline (12.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The mixture was kept at 0 ºC for 30 min and stirred at room temperature until the starting material was consumed as indicated by TLC analysis. After completion of reaction, ice-water (50 mL) was added to quench the reaction mixture while maintaining vigorous stirring. In the cases when the amidine precipitated upon addition of water, the solid was filtered off and dissolved in EtOAc. In all other cases, the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The extracts were combined and washed with water (2 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified either by silica gel chromatography or upon recrystallization (solvent: DCM/Hexane) to provide corresponding amidine derivatives (**2aa-2ac**, **2ae**, **2af**, **2ah**, **2ai**, **2al**, **2am**, **2ao**, **2ar-2at**, **2av**, **2aw**, **2bc-2bf**).

Method B: A sealed tube (15 mL in volume) equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with the carbonitrile (10.0 mmol) and the aniline (11.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) under air. $AlCl_3$ (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added portion wise. The tube was tightly sealed with a cap and lowered into a preheated oil bath at 140 ºC. The reaction mixture was stirred for about an hour. The hot mixture

was poured into a solution of concentrated NaOH solution (40 mL) in mixed water and ice (100 mL) and stirred for about 15 minutes. Then the mixture was extracted with EtOAc or DCM (50 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL × 3), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and evaporated under vacuum. The residue was purified either by silica gel chromatography or upon recrystallization (solvent: DCM/Hexane) to provide corresponding amidine derivatives (**2ad**, **2ag**, **2aj**, **2ak**, **2an**, **2ap**, **2aq**, **2ax-2bb**).

General procedure for the synthesis of imides (4) and amides (5) : To an oven dried test tube (27 mL in volume) equipped with a stir bar, the 1,2-diketone (**1**, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), amidine (**2**, 1.2 equiv.), H_2O (5 equiv.), 20 mol% $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ and dry DMF (3 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was lowered into a preheated oil bath at 70 °C and stirred for the specified time under air. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was added into water (50 mL), and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (60–120 mesh). The amide products (**5**) were purified using hexane:ethylacetate (9:1) as the eluent. The imide products (**4**) were purified using hexane:ethylacetate (7:3) as the eluent.

N,N'-Dibenzoyl-N-phenylbenzamidine (3a)[21]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) at room temperature afforded **3a** (194 mg, 96%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 9:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 7.76–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.61 (m, 4H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.29 (m, 10H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 176.4, 171.6, 158.2, 140.7, 135.1, 134.6, 133.6, 133.1, 132.2, 132.1, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0,

128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{27}H_{21}N_2O_2$ 405.1603; found 405.1603.

N-Benzoylbenzamide (4aa)[4c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4aa** (109 mg, 97%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.34 (s, 1H), 7.94–7.90 (m, 4H), 7.68–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.2, 134.3, 133.1, 129.1, 128.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}NNaO_2$ 248.0687; found 248.0691.

N-Benzoyl-4-methoxybenzamide (4ab)[4a]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ab** (136 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ab** (116 mg, 91%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.18 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.04 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.4, 167.2, 163.3, 134.6, 132.9, 131.4, 129.0, 128.8, 126.21, 114.1, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}NNaO_3$ 278.0793; found 278.0796.

N-Benzoyl-4-chlorobenzamide (4ac)[4c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ac** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ac** (127 mg, 98%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.40 (s, 1H), 7.95–7.89 (m, 4H), 7.67–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.1, 167.3, 137.8, 134.1, 133.16, 133.13, 131.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}ClNNaO_2$ 282.0298; found 282.0299.

N-Benzoyl-3-chlorobenzamide (4ad)[7a]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ad** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ad** (124 mg, 96%) as a

white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.42 (s, 1H), 7.99–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.95–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.84 (m, 1H), 7.72–7.69 (m, 1H), 7.67–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.51 (m, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.0, 166.8, 136.3, 134.1, 133.5, 133.1, 132.7, 130.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.7; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}ClNNaO_2$ 282.0298; found 282.0299.

***N-Benzoyl-2-chlorobenzamide (4ae)*:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ae** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ae** (124 mg, 96%) as a white solid. mp 139–141 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.74 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.47 (m, 5H), 7.43 (td, J = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.4, 166.7, 136.8, 133.5, 133.1, 131.6, 129.83, 129.81, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}ClNNaO_2$ 282.0298; found 282.0299.

***N-Benzoyl-4-bromobenzamide (4af)*[7a]:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2af** (165 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4af** (140 mg, 92%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.40 (s, 1H), 7.94–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.0, 167.5, 134.1, 133.5, 133.1, 131.8, 131.1, 129.1, 128.8, 126.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}BrNNaO_2$ 325.9793; found 325.9794.

***N-Benzoyl-3-bromobenzamide (4ag)*:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ag** (165 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ag** (140 mg, 92%) as a white solid. mp 122–124 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.43 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.94–7.98 (m, 3H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.0, 166.7, 136.5, 135.6, 134.1, 133.1, 131.5, 131.0,

129.1, 128.8, 128.1, 122.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}BrNNaO_2$ 325.9793; found 325.9793.

N-Benzoyl-4-methylbenzamide (4ah)[4c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ah** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ah** (112 mg, 95%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.25 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.2, 167.8, 143.4, 134.4, 133.0, 131.4, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 21.5; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}NNaO_2$ 262.0844; found 262.0844.

N-Benzoyl-2-methylbenzamide (4ai)[7a]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ai** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ai** (50 mg, 42%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.50 (s, 1H), 8.00–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.30 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 170.7, 167.2, 136.4, 135.9, 133.6, 133.2, 130.9, 130.6, 129.0, 128.8, 127.9, 126.0, 19.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}NNaO_2$ 262.0844; found 262.0846.

N-Benzoyl-5-bromo-2-methoxybenzamide (4aj)**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aj** (183 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4aj** (137 mg, 82%) as a white solid. mp 168–170 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.42 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.63 (m, 3H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.16– 7.10 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.3, 165.8, 156.3, 135.3, 133.5, 133.4, 132.1, 129.1, 128.7,

127.0, 114.9, 112.3, 56.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}BrNNaO_3$ 355.9898; found 355.9901.

***N-Benzoyl-2,5-dichlorobenzamide (4ak)*:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ak** (160 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ak** (132 mg, 90%) as a white solid using silica gel (100-200 mesh) and hexane:ethylacetate (19:1) as the eluent. mp 153–155 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.84 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 4H). **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.1, 166.7, 138.4, 133.6, 132.8, 132.2, 131.5, 131.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_9Cl_2NNaO_2$ 315.9908; found 315.9912.

***N-Benzoylthiophene-2-carboxamide (4al)*[8a]:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2al** (122 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4al** (103 mg, 89%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.28 (s, 1H), 8.16 (dd, J = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.25 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.1, 161.3, 138.8, 134.8, 134.5, 133.0, 132.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_9NNaO_2S$ 254.0252; found 254.0259.

***N-Benzoylfuran-2-carboxamide (4am)*[8a]:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2am** (114 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4am** (101 mg, 94%) as a light yellow solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.11 (s, 1H), 8.03 – 8.00 (m, 1H), 7.89–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.67– 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125

MHz): δ 167.7, 157.2, 147.9, 146.7, 134.3, 133.1, 129.0, 128.8, 118.2, 112.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_9NNaO_3$ 238.0480; found 238.0485.

***N-Benzoyl-2-chloronicotinamide (4an)*:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2an** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4an** (120 mg, 92%) as a white solid. mp 148–150 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.91 (s, 1H), 8.52 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.97–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.4, 166.7, 150.7, 145.9, 138.1, 133.7, 133.5, 132.7, 129.1, 129.0, 123.5; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_9ClN_2NaO_2$ 283.0250; found 283.0251.

***N-Benzoylisonicotinamide (4ao)*:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ao** (118 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ao** (83 mg, 84%) as a light yellow solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 3:7); mp 188–190 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.60 (s, 1H), 8.81–8.74 (m, 2H), 7.98–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.8, 167.5, 150.6, 141.8, 133.7, 133.4, 129.2, 128.9, 122.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}N_2NaO_2$ 249.0640; found 249.0644.

***N-(Cyclopropanecarbonyl)benzamide (4ap)*[4c]:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ap** (96 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ap** (83 mg, 88%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.15 (s, 1H), 7.93– 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.55– 7.49 (m, 2H), 2.50–2.44 (m, 1H), 1.03–0.79 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 175.3, 166.7, 134.0, 133.0, 128.9, 128.8, 15.0, 9.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{11}H_{11}NNaO_2$ 212.0687; found 212.0690.

N-Butyrylbenzamide (4aq)[4b]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aq** (97 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4aq** (76 mg, 80%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.93 (s, 1H), 7.91–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.64–1.55 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 174.9, 166.8, 133.8, 133.0, 128.8, 128.7, 39.4, 17.9, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}NNaO_2$ 214.0844; found 214.0850.

***3-Chloro-N-(4-chlorobenzoyl)benzamide (4ar)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ad** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ar** (140 mg, 95%) as a white solid. mp 155–157 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.53 (s, 1H), 8.04–8.01 (m, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.1, 166.8, 138.0, 136.2, 133.6, 132.9, 132.8, 131.1, 130.8, 128.9, 128.7, 127.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_9Cl_2NNaO_2$ 315.9908; found 315.9910.

***4-Bromo-N-(4-chlorobenzoyl)benzamide (4as)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2af** (165 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4as** (151 mg, 89%) as a white solid. mp 190–192 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.45 (s, 1H), 7.95–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.77–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.4, 167.2, 138.0, 133.3, 132.9, 131.8, 131.1, 131.0, 128.9, 127.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na,^{81}Br]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_9BrClNNaO_2$ 361.9383; found 361.9384.

***N-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-2-methylbenzamide (4at)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ai** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4at** (125 mg, 91%) as a white solid. mp 167–169 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.50 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31–

7.24 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 170.4, 166.3, 138.0, 136.2, 136.0, 132.5, 131.0, 130.7, 128.9, 128.0, 126.0, 19.82; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}ClNNaO_2$ 296.0454; found 296.0455.

***N-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)thiophene-2-carboxamide (4au)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2al** (122 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4au** (119 mg, 90%) as a white solid. mp 162–164 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.35 (s, 1H), 8.16–8.12 (m, 1H), 8.01 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd, J = 4.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.3, 161.2, 138.6, 137.7, 135.0, 133.3, 132.8, 131.0, 128.9, 128.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_8ClNNaO_2S$ 287.9862; found 287.9863.

***N-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)furan-2-carboxamide (4av)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2am** (114 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4av** (113 mg, 91%) as a yellow solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); mp 126–128 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.20 (s, 1H), 8.02 (dd, J = 1.6, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.53 (m, 3H), 6.74 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.9, 157.1, 148.0, 146.6, 137.8, 133.1, 130.9, 128.9, 118.4, 112.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_8ClNNaO_3$ 272.0090; found 272.0094.

***2-Chloro-N-(4-chlorobenzoyl)nicotinamide (4aw)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2an** (139 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4aw** (132 mg, 90%) as a white solid. mp 166–168 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.97 (s, 1H), 8.52 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.3,

165.8, 150.8, 146.0, 138.6, 138.2, 133.3, 131.5, 131.0, 129.2, 123.5; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_8Cl_2N_2NaO_2$ 316.9861; found 316.9862.

***4-Chloro-N-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)benzamide (4ax)*:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ap** (96 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ax** (94 mg, 84%) as a white solid. mp 173–175 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.19 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.47–2.41 (m, 1H), 1.11–0.43 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 175.2, 165.8, 137.9, 132.8, 130.8, 129.0, 15.0, 9.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for $C_{11}H_{10}ClNNaO_2$ 246.0298; found 246.0298.

***N-Butyryl-4-chlorobenzamide (4ay)*[7c]:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aq** (97 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ay** (92 mg, 82%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.00 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 174.9, 165.9, 137.9, 132.6, 130.7, 128.9, 39.3, 17.8, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for $C_{11}H_{12}ClNNaO_2$ 248.0454; found 248.0455.

***4-Chloro-N-(4-methoxybenzoyl)benzamide (4az)*[4a]:** According to general procedure, **1c** (135 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ac** (115 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4az** (119 mg, 82%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.24 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.5, 167.1, 163.4, 137.6, 133.3, 131.4, 130.9, 128.8, 126.0, 114.1, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}ClNNaO_3$ 312.0403; found 312.0405.

***4-Methoxy-N-(4-methylbenzoyl)benzamide (4ba)*[4a]:** According to general procedure, **1c** (135 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ah** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4ba**

(104 mg, 77%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.08 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 168.6, 167.8, 163.7, 143.3, 131.6, 131.8, 129.6, 129.6, 126.2, 114.2, 56.0, 21.7; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}NNaO_3$ 292.0950; found 292.0953.

***N-(Cyclopropanecarbonyl)-4-methoxybenzamide (4bb)*:** According to general procedure, **1c** (135 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ap** (96 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4bb** (94 mg, 86%) as a white solid. mp 148–150 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.99 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.80–2.25 (m, 1H, merged with DMSO), 0.93–0.88 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 175.4, 165.9, 163.2, 131.0, 125.9, 114.1, 55.9, 14.9, 9.7; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_{13}NNaO_3$ 242.0793; found 242.0798.

***N-Benzoyl-4-nitrobenzamide* (*4bc*)[7c]:** According to general procedure, **1d** (128 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (118 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **4bc** (60 mg, 44%) as a white solid using silica gel (100-200 mesh) and hexane:ethylacetate (9:1) as the eluent. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.65 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.97–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.8, 167.5, 149.9, 140.3, 133.7, 133.4, 130.3, 129.2, 128.9, 123.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2NaO_4$ 293.0538; found 293.0539.

***N-Acetylbenzamide (4bd)*[4c]:** According to general procedure, **1g** (86 mg, 1 mmol), **2ar** (271 mg, 1.2 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (32 mg, 0.2 mmol) afforded **4bd** (121 mg, 74%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 11.01 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 172.6, 167.0, 133.6, 133.1,

128.9, 128.8, 26.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_9H_9NNaO_2$ 186.0531; found 186.0528.

N-Phenylbenzamide (5a)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5a** (95 mg, 96%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.25 (s, 1H), 7.99–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.62–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.0, 139.6, 135.4, 132.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 124.1, 120.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{13}H_{11}NNaO$ 220.0738; found 220.0738.

4-Chloro-N-phenylbenzamide (5b)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5b** (111 mg, 97%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.32 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 164.9, 139.4, 136.8, 134.1, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 124.2, 120.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}ClNO$ 232.0529; found 232.0527.

4-Methoxy-N-phenylbenzamide (5c)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1c** (135 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5c** (100 mg, 88%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.09 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.03 (m, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.3, 162.3, 139.8, 130.0, 129.0, 127.4, 123.8, 120.8, 114.0, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}NNaO_2$ 250.0844; found 250.0845.

4-Nitro-N-phenylbenzamide (5d)[38]**:** According to general procedure, **1e** (142 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aa** (117 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5d** (46 mg, 38%) as a light yellow solid using silica gel (100-200 mesh) and hexane:ethyacetate (19:1) as the eluent. **^{1}H**

NMR (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.57 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 164.3, 149.6, 141.0, 139.1, 129.6, 129.1, 124.6, 123.9, 120.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}N_2O_3$ 243.0770; found 243.0766.

N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzamide (5e)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ar** (136 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5e** (110 mg, 97%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.13 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.5, 156.0, 135.5, 132.7, 131.8, 128.8, 128.0, 122.4, 114.2, 55.6. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}NO_2$ 228.1025; found 228.1024.

N-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)benzamide (5f)[39]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2as** (172 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5f** (136 mg, 95%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 4:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.64 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.7, 153.0, 135.7, 135.3, 134.1, 132.0, 128.8, 128.0, 98.5, 60.5, 56.2; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{18}NO_4$ 288.1236; found 288.1241.

N-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzamide (5g)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2at** (138 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5g** (113 mg, 98%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.39 (s, 1H), 8.04–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR**

(DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.1, 138.6, 135.2, 132.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.7, 122.3; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}ClNO$ 232.0529; found 232.0527.

N-(3-Chlorophenyl)benzamide (5h)[40]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2au** (138 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5h** (114 mg, 98%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.99 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.73 (ddd, J = 8.2, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, J = 8.0, 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.2, 141.1, 135.0, 133.4, 132.2, 130.7, 128.9, 128.1, 123.7, 120.1, 119.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}ClNO$ 232.0529; found 232.0527.

N-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzamide (5i)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2av** (128 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5i** (101 mg, 94%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.31 (s, 1H), 7.99–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.83–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.9, 159.7 (d, $J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 240.2 Hz), 136.0 (d, $J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 2.5 Hz), 135.2, 132.0, 128.8, 128.0, 122.67 (d, $J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 7.8 Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 22.2 Hz); **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}FNO$ 216.0825; found 216.0824.

N-(p-Tolyl)benzamide (5j)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2aw** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5j** (102 mg, 97%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.8, 137.0, 135.2, 133.0, 131.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.0, 120.8, 20.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}NO$ 212.1075; found 212.1074.

N-(4-Isopropylphenyl)benzamide (5k)[25i]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ax** (143 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5k** (110 mg, 92%) as a light yellow solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.18 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.91–2.81 (m, 1H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.7, 144.2, 137.3, 135.5, 131.9, 128.8, 128.0, 126.7, 120.9, 33.3, 24.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{18}NO$ 240.1388; found 240.1389.

N-Mesitylbenzamide (5l)[17c]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ay** (142 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5l** (110 mg, 76%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 6H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 165.5, 136.0, 135.7, 134.9, 133.1, 131.8, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 40.50, 21.01, 18.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{18}NO$ 240.1388; found 240.1395.

N-Cyclopropylbenzamide (5m)[25a]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2az** (96 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5m** (60 mg, 74%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 4:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.84–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 2H), 2.89–2.77 (m, 1H), 0.71–0.66 (m, 2H), 0.62–0.52 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 167.9, 134.9, 131.5, 128.6, 127.6, 23.5, 6.2; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{10}H_{11}NNaO$ 184.0738; found 184.0736.

N-(Pentan-2-yl)benzamide (5n)**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ba** (114 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5n** (50 mg, 52%) as a white solid. mp 78–80 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 8.16–8.09 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H), 4.07–3.94 (m, 1H), 1.60–1.49 (m, 1H), 1.46–1.37 (m,

1H), 1.35–1.27 (m, 2H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.0, 135.4, 131.3, 128.5, 127.6, 44.9, 38.6, 21.2, 19.5, 14.3; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_{18}NO$ 192.1388; found 192.1387.

N-(Pyridin-4-yl)benzamide (5o)[25j]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2bc** (118 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5o** (94 mg, 95%) as a white crystalline solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.61 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.9, 150.7, 146.4, 134.7, 132.5, 128.9, 128.3, 114.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}N_2O$ 199.0871; found 199.0873.

N-(Pyridin-3-yl)benzamide (5p)[25j]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2bd** (118 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5p** (96 mg, 97%) as a brown solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.48 (s, 1H), 8.95 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.7 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.4, 145.0, 142.4, 136.3, 134.8, 132.3, 128.9, 128.2, 127.8, 124.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}N_2O$ 199.0871; found 199.0892.

N-(Pyridin-2-yl)benzamide (5q)[25j]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2be** (118 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5q** (85 mg, 86%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 19:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.79 (s, 1H), 8.42–8.37 (m, 1H), 8.24– 8.18 (m, 1H), 8.08–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.89–7.81 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.15 (m, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.4,

152.6, 148.4, 138.5, 134.5, 132.4, 128.8, 128.4, 120.2, 115.2; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{12}H_{11}N_2O$ 199.0871; found 199.0876.

N-(5-Bromopyridin-2-yl)benzamide (5r)[25j]**:** According to general procedure, **1a** (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2bf** (166 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5r** (115 mg, 83%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 19:1); **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.99 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 166.5, 151.6, 148.9, 141.0, 134.3, 132.5, 128.8, 128.5, 116.7, 114.4; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}BrN_2O$ 276.9977; found 276.9976.

4-Chloro-N-(p-tolyl)benzamide (5s)[25i]**:** According to general procedure, **1b** (139 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2bw** (126 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5s** (113 mg, 93%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 164.6, 136.9, 136.7, 134.1, 133.2, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 120.9, 20.9; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{14}H_{13}ClNO$ 246.0686; found 246.0685.

4-Methoxy-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide (5t)[40]**:** According to general procedure, **1c** (135 mg, 0.5 mmol), **2ar** (136 mg, 0.6 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol) afforded **5t** (102 mg, 80%) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 9.97 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 164.9, 162.2, 155.8, 132.8, 129.9, 127.5, 122.4, 114.1, 114.0, 55.8, 55.6; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}NO_3$ 258.1130; found 258.1130.

N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)acetamide (5u)[41]**:** According to general procedure, **1g** (86 mg, 1 mmol), **2ar** (271 mg, 1.2 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (32 mg, 0.2 mmol) afforded **5u** (129 mg, 78%) as a light yellow solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); (**^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): 168.2, 155.4, 132.9, 121.0, 114.2, 55.5, 24.2; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_9H_{12}NO_2$ 166.0868; found 166.0864.

N^1-Benzoyl-N^6-phenyladipamide (6a)**:** According to general procedure, **1f** (112 mg, 1 mmol), **2aa** (235 mg, 1.2 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (33 mg, 0.2 mmol) afforded **6a** (107 mg, 33%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 3:7); mp 155–157 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.96 (s, 1H), 9.89 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.55 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 174.9, 171.5, 166.8, 139.7, 133.8, 133.1, 129.1, 128.89, 128.81, 123.4, 119.5, 37.3, 36.7, 25.1, 24.1; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{19}H_{20}N_2NaO_3$ 347.1372; found 347.1377.

N^1-Benzoyl-N^6-(4-methoxyphenyl)adipamide (6b)**:** According to general procedure, **1f** (112 mg, 1 mmol), **2ar** (272 mg, 1.2 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (33 mg, 0.2 mmol) afforded **6b** (135 mg, 38%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); mp 160–162 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.95 (s, 1H), 9.75 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.38 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.73 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.80–1.40 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 174.9, 170.9, 166.8, 155.4, 133.8, 133.1, 132.9, 128.9, 128.8, 121.0, 114.2, 55.5, 37.3, 36.5, 25.2, 24.2; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{20}H_{22}N_2NaO_4$ 377.1477; found 377.1480.

***N^1-(Cyclopropanecarbonyl)-N^6-phenyladipamide (6c)*:** According to general procedure, **1f** (112 mg, 1 mmol), **2ap** (192 mg, 1.2 mmol) and $VOSO_4 \cdot xH_2O$ (33 mg, 0.2 mmol) afforded **6c** (118 mg, 41%) as a white solid. eluent (hexane:ethylacetate = 1:1); mp 192–194 ºC; **^{1}H NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 500 MHz): δ 10.83 (s, 1H), 9.88 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.16–2.09 (m, 1H), 1.65–1.50 (m, 4H), 0.89–0.79 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (DMSO-d_6, 125 MHz): δ 174.4, 174.1, 171.5, 139.7, 129.1, 123.4, 119.5, 36.9, 36.6, 25.1, 24.1, 14.6, 9.3. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{20}N_2NaO_3$ 311.1372; found 311.1375.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

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Screening of Metal Catalysts

Screening of Solvents

Control Experiments

Color Change during the reaction of **1a** with **2aa**

^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of all compounds

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Authors are thankful to the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizers, Govt. of India, New Delhi for the award of NIPER fellowship.

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