**Electronic Supporting Information** 

# Acylation of Grignard reagents mediated by N-methylpyrrolidone: A remarkable selectivity for the synthesis of ketones

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	Page No
General	ESI 2
Experimental Section	ESI 2 – ESI 3
Analytical Data	ESI 4-ESI 17
References	ESI 18-ESI 19
<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C spectra	ESI 20- ESI 45

**General.** All solvents were dried and distilled according to standard methods before use. NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL LA-300, BRUKER-AV400 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. Tetramethylsilane (TMS;  $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) and residual non-deuterated DMSO signal ( $\delta = 2.49$  ppm) served as internal standards for <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The corresponding residual non-deuterated solvent signal (CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta = 77.00$  ppm; DMSO:  $\delta = 39.50$  ppm) was used as internal standards for <sup>13</sup>C NMR. IR spectra were measured using a JASCO FT/IR-410 spectrometer, and Perkin-Elmer FT/IR Spectrum BX, GX. Mass spectra were measured with Micromass Q-Tof (ESI-HRMS), and GCMS shimadzu. Column chromatography was conducted on Silica gel 230-400 mesh (Merck) and preparative thin-layer chromatography was carried out using SILICA GEL GF-254. Elemental analysis was carried out at the Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India by using Thermo Finnigan Flash 1112 series analyser.

## **Experimental Section**

**Typical procedure adapted to preparation of Grignard Reagents.** To a well-stirred dry mixture of Mg (23.1 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) in nitrogen atmosphere was added iodine (20 mg) and 1,2-dibromoethane (100 mg), and the reaction mixture was heated to 55 - 60°. To this reaction mixture was added aryl or alkyl bromide (23.1 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at the same temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60°C for 1h and brought to room temperature and used for the next step.

Acylation of Grignard reagent (general procedure). To a well-stirred solution of NMP (2.51 g, 2.45 mL, 25.4 mmol) in dry toluene (10 mL) was added acid chloride (27.7 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at 0 °C during 15 min, and stirred for 15 min at the same temperature, followed by the addition of RMgX (23.1 mmol, in 20 mL THF) at -5 to -10 °C during 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4h at 0 to -5 °C, and was added to aqueous ammonium chloride solution (10g solution in 30 mL water), and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 50 mL ), the combined organic layer was washed with dil HCl (20%, 100mL), saturated

 $Na_2CO_3$  solution (100mL), and water (2 × 50 mL), dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated in *vacuo*. The resulting crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to furnish the pure compound.

#### General procedure 2 (For compound 14c and 15c Table 2).

Step 1: To a well-stirred mixture of Mg (878 mg, 36 mmol) and I<sub>2</sub> (100 mg) in THF (25 mL) was added isobutyl chloride (3.22g, 3.65 g, 35 mmol) at room temperature during 20 min, heated at reflux for 1h, cooled to 0 ° in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and was added 2-bromopyridine (5g, 3.01 mL, 31.8 mmol, ) in toluene (6 mL) at 0 °C and stirred at the same temperature for 30 min to generate the Grignard reagent.

Step 2: To a well-stirred cold solution (0 °C) of NMP (3.4mL, 3.47 g, 35 mmol) in dry toluene (10 mL) was added a solution of acid chloride (38.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in dry toluene (10 mL) during 15 min. After stirring the reaction mixture for 15 min at the same temperature was added a solution of RMgX (31.8 mmol) in THF (generated in step 1) at -5 to -10 °C during 15 min and the reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at the same temperature and was quenched with aqueous ammonium chloride (10 g solution in 30 mL water), extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 50 mL ), combined organic layer was separated and dried over sodium sulphate and the solvent was removed completely. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to obtain the product.

## Analytical Data.

**Hexanophenone** (1c).<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz); Colourless liquid: IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 1684; 7.94-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2H), 2.95 (t, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.73 (t, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.25-1.41(m, 4H),  $\delta$  0.90 (t, 3H, J = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  200.4, 136.9, 132.7, 128.4, 127.9, 38.4, 31.4, 23.9, 22.4, 13.8; HRMS(ESI) calculated for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O: 177.1279, found 177.1278 (M+H).

**4-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)butan-1-one (2c).**<sup>2</sup> Prepared from *p*-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide and 4-chlorobutryl chloride as described in general procedure 1. Colorless liquid; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2964, 1687, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz);  $\delta$  7.90 - 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.0 - 7.10 (m, 2H,), 3.68 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 3.16 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 2.22 (quintet, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  197.2, 166.9, 164.4, 133.0, 130.5, 130.4, 115.7, 115.5, 35.0, 31.0, 26.5; MS (EI) *m*/*z* 201(M<sup>+</sup>)

**4-Chloro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)butan-1-one** (**3c**).<sup>3</sup> Prepared from *p*-chlorophenyl magnesium bromide and 4-chlorobutryl chloride as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 31 °C (29-30 °C)<sup>lit, 3a</sup>, Yield: 70%; colourless solid; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 2961, 1686, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz); δ 7.90 - 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.43 -7.46 (m, 2H), 3.68 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.16 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.23 (p, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 197.7, 139.6, 135.0, 129.4, 128.9, 44.5, 35.2, 26.6; MS (EI) *m/z* 217 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**Benzophenone** (4c).<sup>4</sup> Prepared from benzoyl chloride and phenylmagnesium bromide as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 48  $^{\circ}$ C(47.5  $^{\circ}$ C)<sup>lit, 4a</sup>; Yield: 85%; Colourless solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1659, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  7.42-7.81(m, 10H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  196.5, 137.5, 132.3, 129.9,128.1; MS (EI) *m/z* 182 (M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O: 183.0810, found 183.0812 (M+H).

**4-Fluoro benzophenone** (**5c**).<sup>5</sup> Prepared from benzoyl chloride and fluoro-*p*-phenylmagnesium bromide as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 46-47 °C (45-47 °C)<sup>lit, 5a</sup>; Yield: 77%; pale yellow solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):1723, 1660, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.10 - 7.80 (m, 9H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100

MHz): δ 195.2, 164.4(d, *J* = 252 Hz), 137.4, 133.7(d, *J* = *3* Hz), 132.6 (d, *J*= 9 Hz),132.4, 129.8, 128.3, 115.4 (d, *J* = 22 Hz), MS (EI) *m*/*z* 200(M<sup>+</sup>).

**4-Methoxybenzophenone** (**6c**).<sup>6</sup>Prepared from *p*-methoxybenzoyl chloride and phenylmagnesium bromide as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 58-60 °C (59-60 °C)<sup>lit, 6a</sup>; Yield: 76%; Colurless solid; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 3059, 1651, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ ), 6.9 - 7.85 (m, 9H), 3.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 195.5, 163.2, 138.2, 132.5, 131.8, 130, 129.6, 128.1, 113.5, 55.5, MS (EI) *m/z* 212(M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 213.0916, found 213.0915 (M+H).

**2,4-Dichlorobenzophenone** (**7c**).<sup>7</sup> Prepared from 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl chloride and phenylmagnesium bromide as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 51-52 °C (50.5-51.5 °C)<sup>lit, 10a</sup>; Yield: 78%; Colourless solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1680, 1673, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.20 - 7.90 (m, 8H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  194.1, 136.8, 136.5, 136.1, 133.8, 132.3, 130.0, 129.9, 128.6, 127; MS (EI) *m/z* 250(M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O(M+Na) : 272.9850, found 272.9852 (M+Na).

Acetophenone (8c).<sup>8</sup> Prepared from acetyl chloride and phenyl magnesium bromide as described in general procedure 1. Yield: 72%; Colorless liquid; IR (Neat cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1684, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.43-7.96 (m, 5H), 2.60 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  198.1, 137, 133, 128.5, 128.2, 26.5; MS (EI) *m/z* 120(M<sup>+</sup>).

**1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanone** (9c).<sup>9</sup> Prepared from *p*-chlorophenyl magnesium bromide and acetyl chloride as described in general procedure 1. Yield: 83%; colorless liquid; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1742, 1687, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.87 - 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 - 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  196.7, 139.4, 135.3, 129.6, 128.7, 26.4; MS (EI) *m/z* 154(M<sup>+</sup>).

**1-(4-(***tert***-butyl)phenyl)-4-chlorobutan-1-one (10c).<sup>10</sup>** Prepared from *p-tert*-butylphenyl magnesium bromide and 4-chloro butryl chloride as described in general procedure 1. and *o*-benzoylbenzoyl chloride as described in general procedure 1. *mp*.: 47 °C (46-49 °C)<sup>lit, 10a</sup>, Yield: 83%; pale yellow solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1684. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz);  $\delta$  7.92 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.48 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.67 (t, 2H,

*J* = 6.2 Hz), 3.15 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 2.21 (quint, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.30 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 198.5, 156.9, 134.1, 127.9, 125.5, 44.6, 35.1, 35.0, 31.2, 26.8; MS (EI) *m/z* 239 (M<sup>+</sup>+1).

**2-Benzoylbenzophenone** (**11c**).<sup>11</sup>Prepared from phenyl magnesium bromide and *o*-benzoylbenzoyl chloride as described in general procedure 1. *mp*.:139-140 °C (137-139 °C)<sup>lit, 11</sup>, Yield: 83%; pale yellow solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1672, 1661. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz);  $\delta$  7.88 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.79 (s, 4H), 7.69(t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.55(t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  196.5. 139.9, 137.1, 132.9, 130.3, 129.7, 129.6, 128.2; MS (EI) *m/z* 286 (M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>:309.0891(M+Na), found 309.0890 (M+Na).

**Benzoylacetonitrile** (12c).<sup>12</sup> Prepared from phenyl magnesium bromide and cyano acetyl chloride as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 81-83 °C (80-81 °C)<sup>lit, 12</sup>, Yield: 73%; colourless crystalline solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2263, 1689; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz); δ 7.91-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.51 - 7.55 (m, 2H), 4.10 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 187, 134.7, 134.2, 129.1, 128.4, 113.7, 29.3; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO(M+Na): 168.0425, found 168.0427 (M+Na).

**Compound 13c.**<sup>13</sup> Prepared from *p*-chlorophenyl magnesium bromide and methyl-2-(chlorocarbonyl) benzoate as described in general procedure 1. *mp*: 108-110 °C (101-102 °C)<sup>lit, 10a</sup>, Yield: 86%; Colourless solid; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1727, 1673, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz); δ 7.30 - 8.00 (m, 8H), 3.6 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 195.5, 194.9, 165.8, 140.9, 139.1, 135.2, 132.2, 130.2, 129.8, 129.4, 128.5, 127.2, 51.9; MS (EI) *m/z* 274 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**2-Acetyl pyridine** (**14c**).<sup>12, 14</sup> Prepared from 2-pyridyl magnesium bromide and acetyl chloride as described in general procedure 2. Yield: 79 %; colorless liquid; **IR** (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1699, 1584, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.69 (br, d, 1H), 8.04 (br, d, 1H), 7.82-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.46 - 7.49 (m, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 199.3, 152.9, 148.4, 136.3, 126.6, 121, 25.1; MS (EI) *m/z* 121(M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (*m/z*): calculated for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO: 144.0425(M+Na), found 144.0423 (M+Na).

**4-chloro-1-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one** (**15c**).<sup>15</sup> Prepared from 2-thiophenyl magnesium bromide and 4-chlorobutyryl chloride as described in general procedure 2. Yield: 89 %; colorless liquid; **IR** (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1666, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.75 (dd, 1H, J = 3.7 and 0.8 Hz ), 7.64 (dd, 1H, J = 5 and 0.8 Hz ), 7.13 (dd, 1H, J = 4 .8 and 3.9 Hz ), 3.66 (t, 2H, J = 6.2 Hz), 3.12 (t, 2H, J =), 2.22 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 191.8, 143.9, 133.6, 131.9, 128.1, 44.4,35.9, 26.91; MS (EI) m/z 121(M<sup>+</sup>); HRESI-MS (m/z): calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ClOS: 189.0141(M+H), found 189.0141(M+H).

**Propiophenone (16c).**<sup>16</sup> Colorless liquid; Yield - 54%; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1687; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.53(m, 1H), 7.47-7.43(m, 2H), 3.00(q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.22(t, J=7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 200.81, 136.85, 132.83, 128.49, 127.91, 31.72, 8.18; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O (M + Na): 157.0629, found (M + Na): 157.0630 **Butyrophenone (17c).**<sup>16</sup> Colorless liquid; Yield - 55%; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1686; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.95(d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 2.94(t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.00(t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 136.99, 132.79, 128.45, 127.94, 40.41, 17.67, 13.80; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O (M + Na): 171.0786, found (M + Na): 171.0788 **1-Chloroheptan-4-one (18c).**<sup>17</sup> 1-chloroheptan-4-one; Colorless liquid; Yield - 65%; IR (Neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1741; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 3.58(t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.64-1.58(m, 2H), 0.92(t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 209.92, 44.86, 44.51, 39.18, 26.21, 17.27, 13.69; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CIO (M + H): 149.0733, found (M + Na): 149.0732.

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## <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1c









<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 2c



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 2c





в 1.98 2.00 6 4c, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> = O \* <del>4</del>6 N

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 4c



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 4c





<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 5c

б 6c, <sup>1</sup>H NMR,300 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub> ъ 1:81 .98 2.03 0 =0 1.98 π 6c 5 3.00 υ 0nn#

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 6c



## <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 6c

-1

Integral ppm ø œ 1.9148 1.0000 2.8939 1.9592 C 7c, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> m C 0 c 70 Þ ω n 1

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 7c



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 7c

0

B 1 9 æ 1.9268 0.9652 Ξ 1.9343 8c, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> Ο σ ĉ J w 3.0000 rυ

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 8c



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 8c



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 9c

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 9c



ppm Integral ø 10c, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 400 MHz (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) œ 2.0117 2.0000 4 = 0 m. ch  $\overline{\Box}$ a. 2.0535 2.0535 ω. 2.0513 ng -9.2909 -0-

<sup>1</sup>H NMR OF 10c

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 10c





<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 11c

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 11c



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 12c



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<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 12c

ŝ 0.9509 œ 3.9500  $\bigcirc$ 3.0000 **13c**, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> Ο 0 s 13c <u>೧</u> 5 3.0000 ω rυ -

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 13c

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 13Cc



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 14c



num 220 200 180 160 140 120 200 14c,  $^{\rm 13}\text{C}$  NMR, 100 MHz, CDCl\_3 100 8 O 140 60 111111111111111 40 2 0 uhuuuu

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 14c.

# <sup>1</sup>H NMRof 15c



-15c,  $^{13}$ C NMR, 400 MHz, CDCl $_3$ 9.5 0.0 15c <u>5</u>8 8.0 1.00 0.97 CI 75 1.00 20 6.5 6.0 5.5 50 <del>4</del>5 40 2.04 35 2.06 3.0 25 2.09 20 5 1.0 3 ppm

<sup>13</sup>C NMR of 15c

0

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# <sup>1</sup>H NMRof 16c



# <sup>1</sup>H NMRof 17c







# <sup>1</sup>H NMRof 18c



=O

# <sup>1</sup>H NMRof 18c



ESI 45