

Chapter III

Regioselective and oxidative [3+3] benzannulation reactions for the synthesis of highly substituted benzophenone derivatives

3.1. Introduction

Benzophenone is a privileged structural motif that is found in a variety of biologically active natural products and pharmaceuticals.¹ A number of benzophenone containing naturally occurring molecules exhibits a wide range of biological effects such as anti-inflammatory,² anti-microbial,³ antioxidant,⁴ anti-viral⁵ and antiparasitic activities.⁶ For example, cariphenone A, exhibits antioxidant activity and pestalone shows potent antibiotic activity against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* (VREF). Additionally, cytotoxicity and anti-proliferative activity against cancer cells is commonly reported biological activity of a number of benzophenones.⁷ Some important naturally occurring biologically active benzophenones are depicted in figure 1.

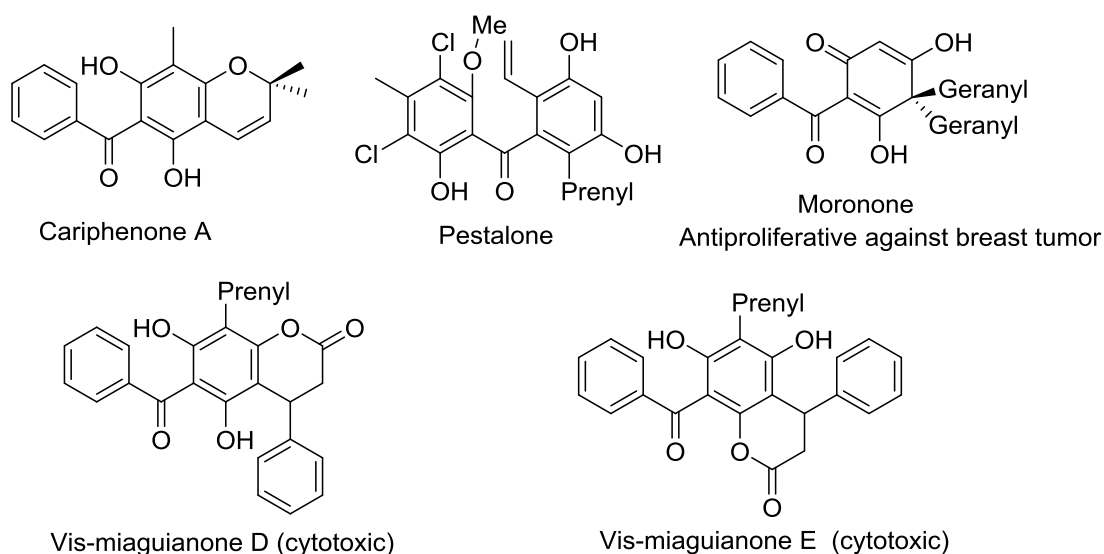


Figure 1: Some important naturally occurring biological active benzophenones

In addition to these biological activities, benzophenone represents one of the important classes of compounds in photochemical applications. Benzophenones show a significant absorption of ultra-violet (UV) light. Owing to their remarkable photochemistry they also find applications as photosensitizer,⁸ photoredox catalysts⁹ and active ingredients in sunscreens such as oxybenzone (Figure 2).¹⁰ Additionally, a number of synthetic benzophenone derivatives are marketed as successful drugs. Tolcapone, a catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibitor for the treatment of Parkinson's disease,¹¹ fenofibrate, a blood cholesterol reducing agent¹² and ketoprofen an anti-inflammatory drug, are three notable examples among these (Figure 2).

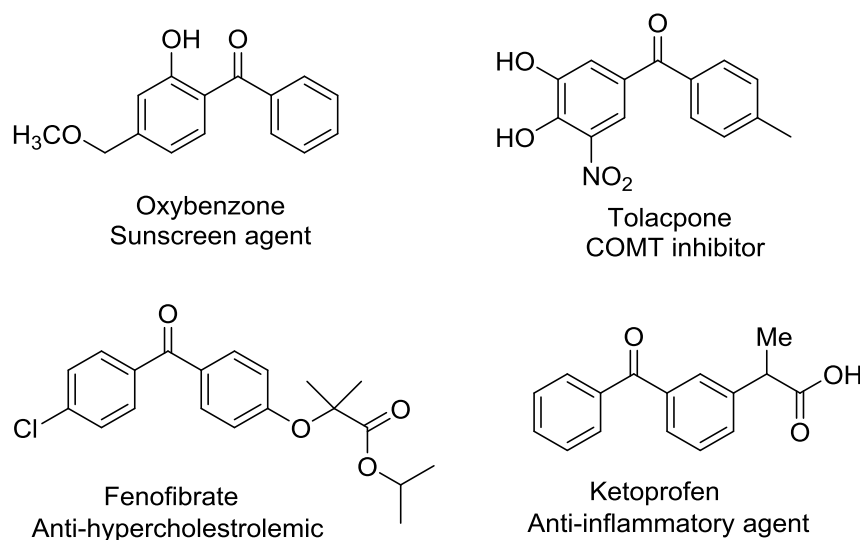


Figure 2: Selected examples of synthetic benzophenone-based drugs/cosmetics

Owing to their importance as building blocks in synthesis of many pharmacological compounds and photochemical properties, a number of synthetic methods for the construction of benzophenones have been developed. The most common among such methods is Friedel-Crafts benzoylation reactions.¹⁴ The regiochemical outcome in these

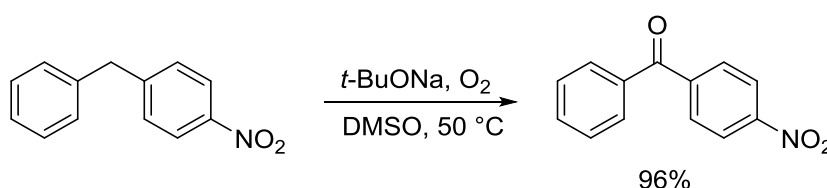
reactions is determined by the directing effect of the existing substituents on aryl ring. This feature may or may not lead to the selective formation of a desired regioisomer when the construction of poly-substituted benzophenone is attempted. Steric hindrance and deactivating effects of electron withdrawing groups also pose challenges in the synthesis of poly-substituted benzophenones.

To overcome these challenges, alternate methods such as oxidation of biarylmethanes,¹⁵ oxidation of secondary alcohols,¹⁶ metal-catalyzed coupling reactions,¹⁷ oxidative cleavage of C-C double bonds¹⁸ and direct addition of Grignard reagents to acyl chlorides¹⁹ have been developed for their synthesis. Yet another alternative method is benzannulation reaction, wherein two acyclic precursors are combined together to form a benzene ring. The advantages of benzannulation reaction have been discussed in detail in chapter II. A brief overview of some of above-mentioned methods is described in following section.

3.2. Methods for the synthesis of benzophenone derivatives

3.2.1. Oxidation of biarylmethanes

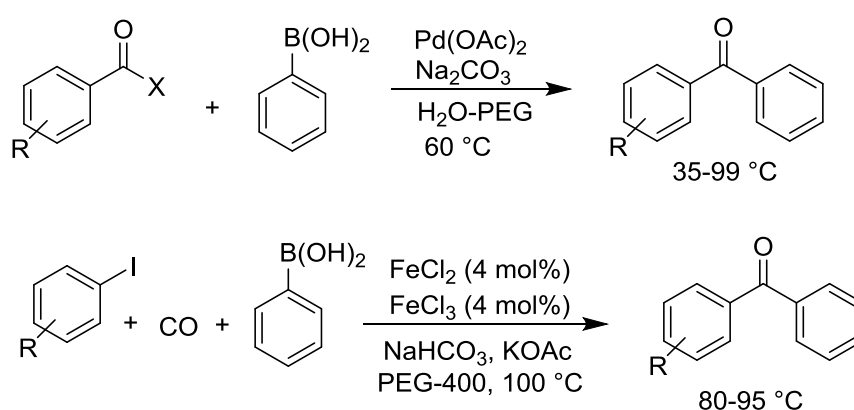
Li and co-workers developed a transition metal-free oxidation of benzylic sp^3 C-H bonds of biarylmethanes by O_2 and t -BuONa to generate the corresponding benzophenones (Scheme 1).^{15a}



Scheme 1: Base and oxygen-mediated oxidation of biarylmethanes to benzophenones

3.2.2. Transition metal-catalyzed coupling reactions

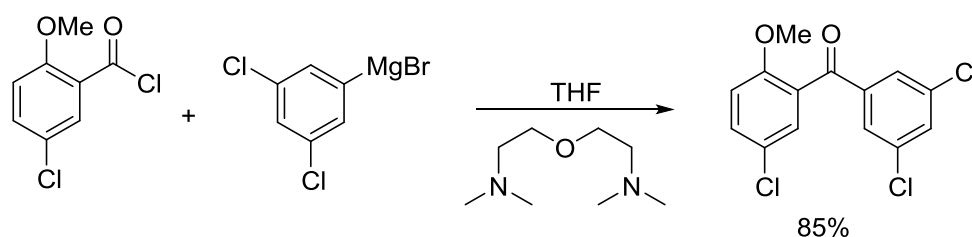
A variety of cross-coupling reactions for the synthesis of biaryl ketones are reported. Palladium-catalyzed cross coupling reactions of arylboronic acids with acyl halides, anhydrides or carboxylic acids is one among them.^{17b} In addition, carbonylative coupling reaction is a widely used method for the construction of symmetrical and unsymmetrical benzophenones (Scheme 2).^{17c}



Scheme 2: Synthesis of benzophenones via transition metal-catalyzed coupling reactions

3.2.3. Direct addition of Grignard reagents to acid chlorides

The addition of arylmagnesium halides to acid chlorides was reported by Wang and co-workers. The reaction afforded various aryl ketones in good yield when carried out in the presence of a simple tridentate ligand, *bis*-[2(*N,N*-dimethylamino)ethyl]ether (Scheme 3).¹⁹

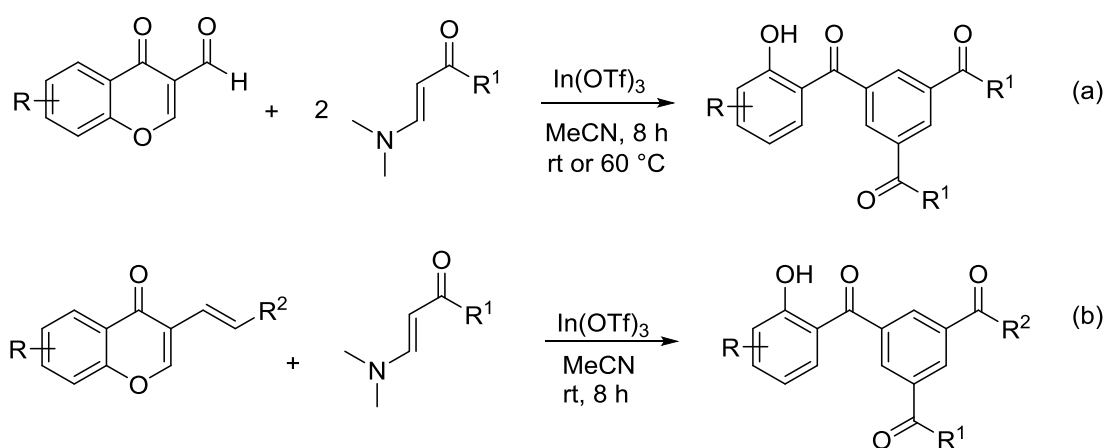


Scheme 3: Addition of arylmagnesium bromide to an acid chloride

It may be noted that the above discussed methods utilize precursors having pre-existing arene rings and conveniently provide access to a number of simple benzophenone derivatives. However, their scopes are limited when poly-functional benzophenones are required as the necessary building blocks would not be readily available. As stated above, benzannulation reactions, offer a number of advantages in such situations. Benzannulation reactions are superior to conventional methods in terms of variety of available reaction components, scope of catalysis and versatility of reaction conditions. A selection of benzannulation-based synthesis of benzophenone derivatives are described below to illustrate these virtues.

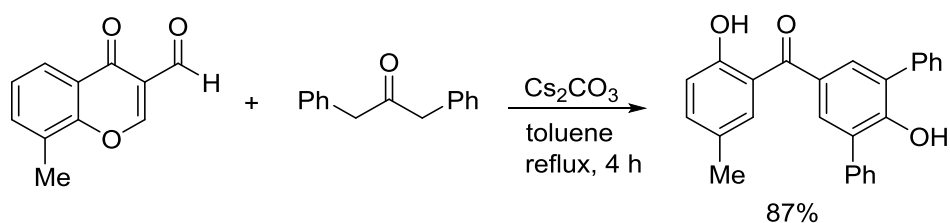
3.2.4. Benzannulation-based methods for synthesis of benzophenone derivatives

Lee and co-workers reported the construction of 2-hydroxybenzophenone derivatives *via* Indium(III)-catalyzed [2+2+2] benzannulation reaction of 3-formylchromones with β -enamino ketones or esters (Scheme 4a). In addition, they developed a [4+2] benzannulation reaction of 3-substituted chromen-4-ones with β -enamino ketones or esters that lead to the same class of products (Scheme 4b).²⁰



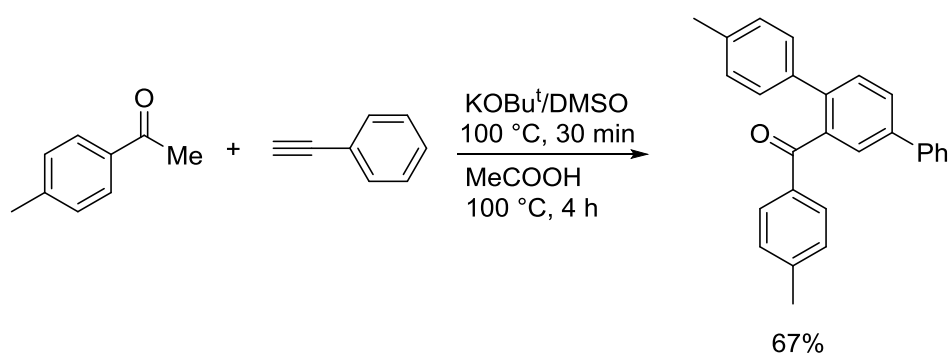
Scheme 4: Construction of 2-hydroxybenzophenone derivatives *via* [2+2+2] and [4+2] benzannulation reactions

A Cs_2CO_3 -promoted benzannulation of 3-formyl chromones and 1,3-diphenyl-2-propanone was also developed by Lee and co-workers. The reaction proceeds through an initial Knoevenagel condensation which is followed by an intramolecular Michael addition to generate substituted benzophenone derivatives (Scheme 5).²¹



Scheme 5: Synthesis of benzophenone derivatives from 3-formyl chromones and 1,3-diphenyl-2-propanone

A base-promoted reaction of acetylarenes with arylacetylenes furnished benzophenone derivatives. The reaction proceeds by the addition of enolate derived from acetylarene to arylacetylene to afford β,γ -unsaturated ketones. Subsequent [3+3] annulation reaction of the newly generated ketone with another molecule of β,γ -unsaturated ketone leads to the formation of benzophenone derivative (Scheme 6).²²



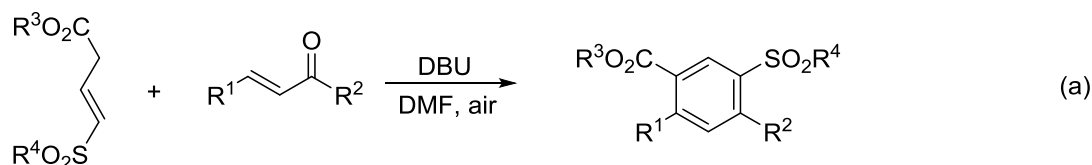
Scheme 6: Base-mediated synthesis of benzophenones from acetylarenes and arylacetylenes

3.3. Background to the present work

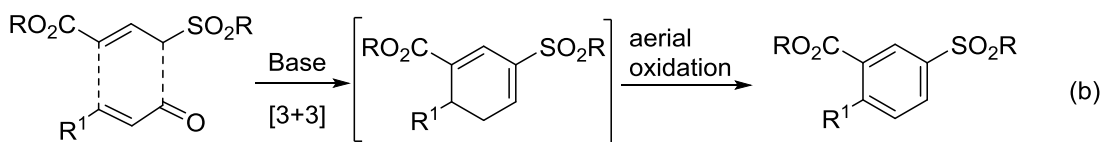
In view of the above-mentioned importance of benzophenone derivatives as well as the advantages of benzannulation reactions, we became interested in developing a convenient

benzannulation-based route to benzophenones. The successful development of aerobic oxidative [3+3] benzannulation reaction of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds with 4-sulfonyl crotonates to afford poly-substituted arenes (Scheme 7a)²³ and a related report²⁴ encouraged us to undertake this exploration. Mechanistically, our method involved a cyclocondensation of a bis-nucleophile and a bis-electrophile to generate a cyclohexadiene intermediate which underwent in situ aerial oxidation to the arene product (Scheme 7b). The bis-nucleophile (4-sulfonyl crotonate) may be viewed as a propene substituted with two electron withdrawing groups (ester and sulfonyl) at both ends. It was of interest to explore whether the ester group can be replaced with a ketone functionality (compound **1**). A parallel mechanistic scenario can be contemplated leading to the formation of a benzophenone product from **1** and enal **2** in the case of aroyl ketone (Scheme 7c).

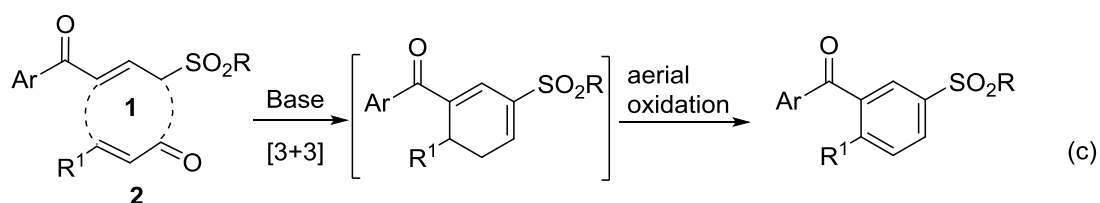
Our previous work:



Simplified mechanistic overview:



Proposed benzannulation reaction:



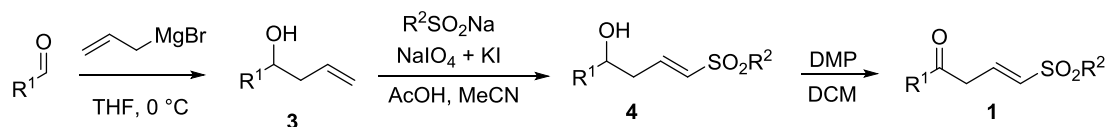
Scheme 7: [3+3] benzannulation reaction of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds (a) with 4-sulfonyl crotonates (b) simplified mechanistic overview (c) Proposed benzannulation reaction

The implementation of the plan, however, posed two serious challenges: (i) ready availability of the 3-carbon nucleophilic component and (ii) the steric demands of an arylketo group would only be slightly different from that of the sulfonyl group thereby making steric differentiation of both ends of the propene unit by the bis-electrophile more challenging (the ester unit in the previous study is considerably smaller than the arylsulfonyl groups). This might lead to non-regioselective outcomes. However, in view of the importance of the product class and previous success we undertook the studies.

Our efforts towards this end, resulted in the discovery of a base-mediated, aerial oxidative [3+3] benzannulation reaction that afforded benzophenone/arene derivatives in excellent regioselectivity. The results of this study are presented in the following passages.

3.4. Results and discussion

In order to test our hypothesis, a convenient access to the required 1,3-bis-nucleophile **1** (1,3-disubstituted propene) was necessary and a three-step preparation from aldehydes was developed. The homoallylic alcohols **3** formed *via* allylation of aldehydes were treated with sodium arylsulfonates, NaIO₄ and KI to furnish the vinyl sulfones **4**.²⁵ This reaction proceeds via the iododisulfonation of the terminal alkene and subsequent dehydroiodination. Oxidation of the secondary alcohol **4** using Dess-Martin periodinane (DMP) afforded the desired keto-sulfone **1** (Scheme 8).



Scheme 8: Preparation of the nucleophilic three-carbon building block **1** for the proposed benzannulation

Pleasingly this reaction was applicable to a number of aldehydes and a number of 1,3-bis-nucleophiles (**1a-1h**) were synthesized in good yields. A summary is depicted table 1. Substituted aryl ketones (**1a-f**, entries 1-6) were readily prepared from corresponding araldehydes, an alkyl derivative (**1g**, entry 7) was made from isovaleraldehyde and a heterocyclic analogue (**1h**, entry 8) from 2-formyl thiophene.

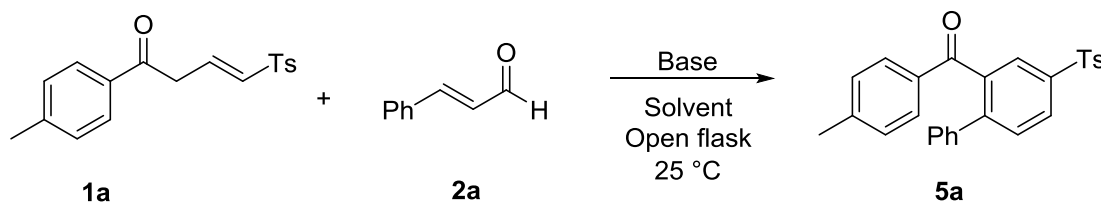
Table 1: Substrate scope for the preparation of 1,3-bis-nucleophile component 1

Entry	R ¹	R ²	Isolated yield of 4 (%)	Isolated yield of 1 (%)
1	<i>p</i> -tolyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4a , 76	1a , 89
2	<i>p</i> -tolyl	Ph	4b , 74	1b , 87
3	phenyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4c , 75	1c , 89
4	4-bromophenyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4d , 81	1d , 91
5	2,3,4-trimethoxyphenyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4e , 78	1e , 89
6	4-isopropylphenyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4f , 73	1f , 84
7	isobutyl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4g , 71	1g , 82
8	thiophene-2-yl	<i>p</i> -tolyl	4h , 68	1h , 78

Following the synthesis of precursors, we started our investigations with the benzannulation reaction of **1a** with a simple electrophilic partner cinnamaldehyde **2a**. Initially, these two reactants were treated under the optimized conditions for previously developed benzannulation reaction of sulfonyl crotonates (entry 1, Table 2). Reaction was carried out in open flask to promote aromatization via aerial oxidation. Pleasingly, a crystalline product was isolated after standard work-up and column chromatography. The product was tentatively assigned the structure **5a** on the basis of spectroscopic analysis. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of **5a** two different singlets at δ 2.34 (3H) and δ 2.42 (3H) were visible, indicating the presence of two methyl groups on aryl rings in the

final product. In ^{13}C NMR spectrum, the signals at δ 21.8 and δ 21.7 confirmed the presence of these two methyl groups. The signal at δ 8.01 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H) was assigned to proton that is sandwiched between the carbonyl and sulfonyl group on the newly formed ring. The other hydrogens in aromatic region gave the expected resonance pattern. In ^{13}C NMR spectrum, the signal at δ 196.3 indicated the presence of ketone carbon in the product. An absorption band at 1741 cm^{-1} in IR spectrum also agreed with this assignment. Other spectroscopic features were also in agreement with the assigned structure. It may be noted that the depicted regiochemistry was tentatively assigned at this stage for the compound **5a**.

Table 2: Optimization of reaction conditions for benzannulation reaction of 1,3-bis nucleophile **1a** and cinnamaldehyde **2a**^a



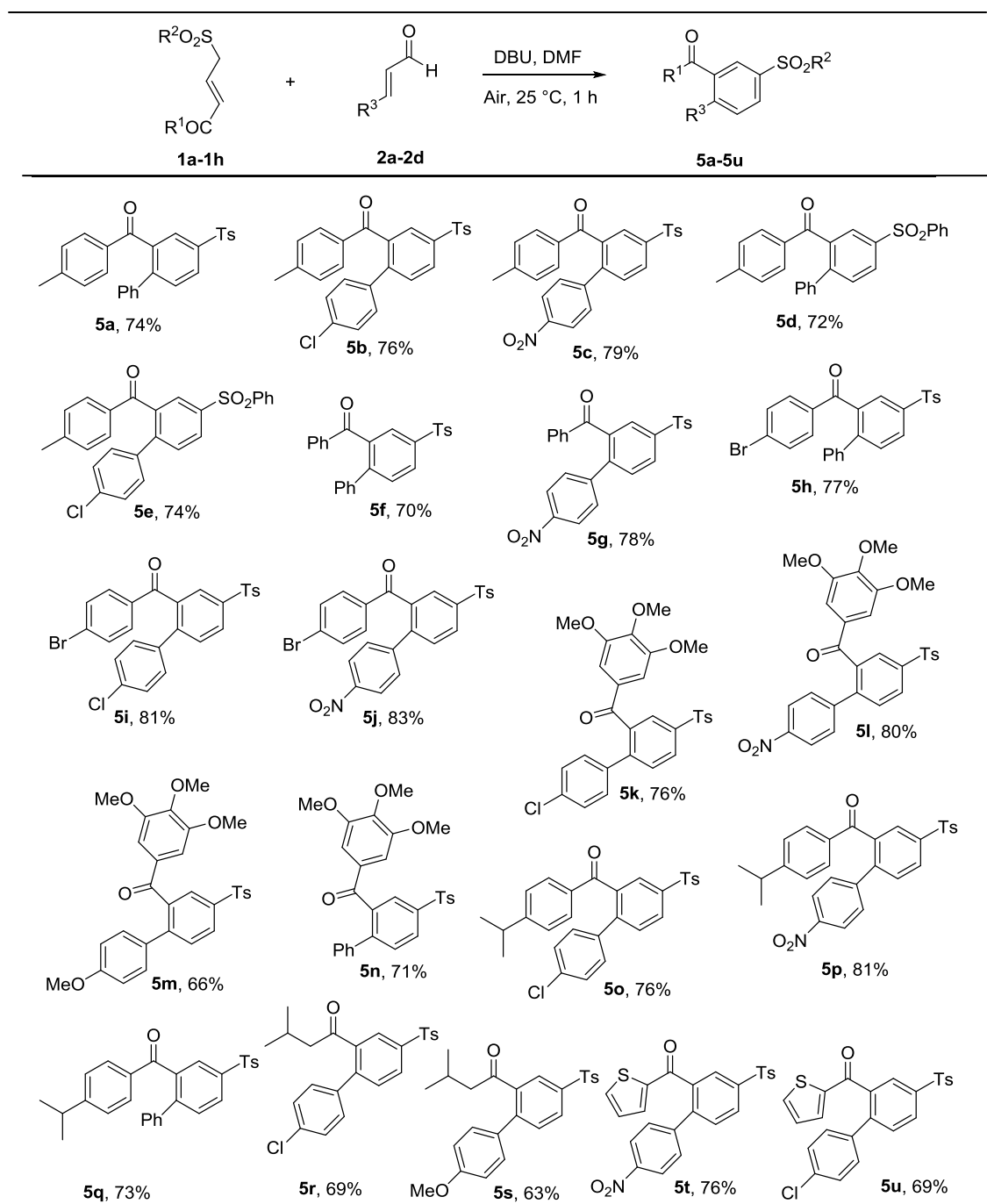
Entry	Base (mmol)	Solvent	Time (h)	Product (yield %) ^b
1	DBU (1.1)	DMF	2	54
2	DBU (1.1)	CH ₃ CN	2	43
3	DBU (1.1)	THF	2	49
4	DBU (1.1)	DMSO	2	42
5	DBU (1.1)	1,4-dioxane	2	29
6	DBU (1.1)	CH ₂ Cl ₂	2	36
7	DBU (2)	DMF	1	74
8	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2)	DMF	1	41
9	Pyridine (2)	DMF	1	32
10	t-BuOK (2)	DMF	1	40
11 ^c	DBU (2)	DMF	1	72

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.11 mmol), **2a** (0.1mmol), DMF (1 ml), 25 °C. ^bYield of isolated product. ^cunder oxygen atmosphere.

Although the product **5a** could be isolated and identified, the yield (54%) was less than satisfactory. Therefore, a number of reaction conditions were investigated by varying the nature and amount of base in various solvents. The same product **5a** was obtained in all cases in varying yields. The best result was obtained when the reactants were exposed to two molar equivalent of DBU in DMF for 1h (entry 7, table 2). Other bases such as cesium carbonate (entry 8), pyridine (entry 9), potassium tert-butoxide (entry 10) and solvents (entry 2-6) were less effective in promoting the benzannulation reaction. There was no significant change in yield when the reaction was carried out under an oxygen atmosphere (entry 11, table 2).

The pleasing outcome encouraged us to explore the substrate scope and generality for this benzannulation reaction. The various 1,3-bis-nucleophiles **1a-h** and α,β -unsaturated aldehydes were subjected to the optimized benzannulation conditions. Delightfully, the corresponding benzophenone derivatives isolated in all the cases. The results are summarized in Table 3.

All the 1,3-bis nucleophiles **1a-h** reacted smoothly with different α, β -unsaturated aldehydes and afforded a wide variety of highly substituted sulfone-bearing benzophenone and arene derivatives. Both electron withdrawing groups such as nitro (**5g, 5l, 5p, 5t**) and electron donating group such as methoxy (**5m, 5s**) are tolerated in benzannulation reaction. A heterocyclic residue such as thiophene can also be easily incorporated into final product by using the corresponding 1,3-bis-nucleophile **1h**. It is important to note that the reaction is not limited to aryl 1,3-bis-nucleophile. The alkyl ketone **1g** reacted smoothly with various enals in the benzannulation reaction to afford the corresponding substituted isobutyl aryl ketones (**5r, 5s**).

Table 3: Generality and scope of the benzannulation reaction^a

^aReaction conditions: **2a** (0.3mmol), 1,3-bis-nucleophile **1a-h** (0.33 mmol), DBU (0.45 mmol) DMF (4 ml), 25 °C, 1h. Yield of isolated products given.

Single crystal X-ray analysis of a representative product **5h** was also obtained at this stage (Figure 4). Thus the structure and regiochemistry assignment of the products **5a-u** were unambiguously established.

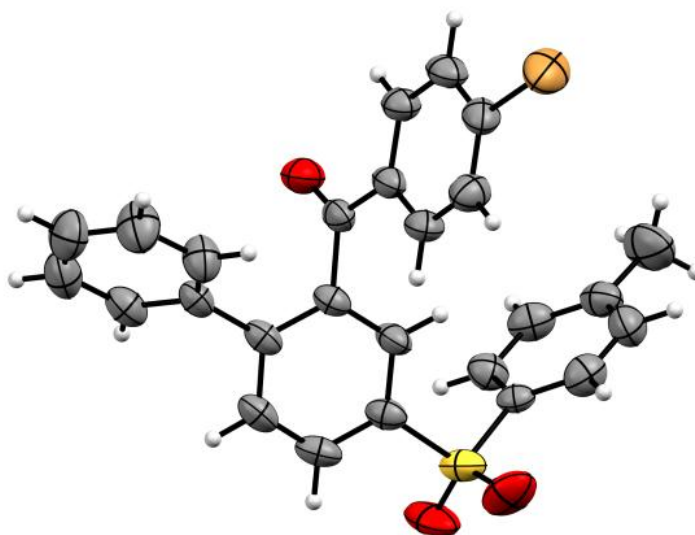
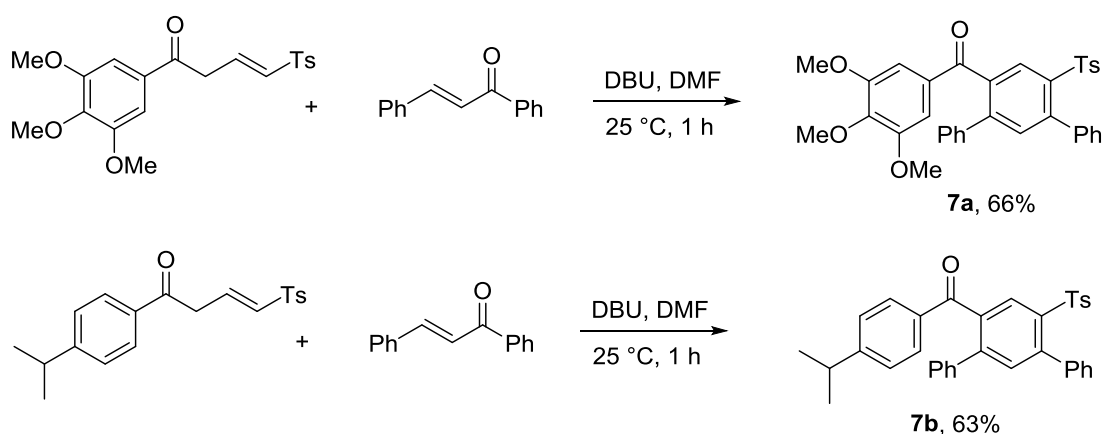


Figure 4: ORTEP diagram of **5h**

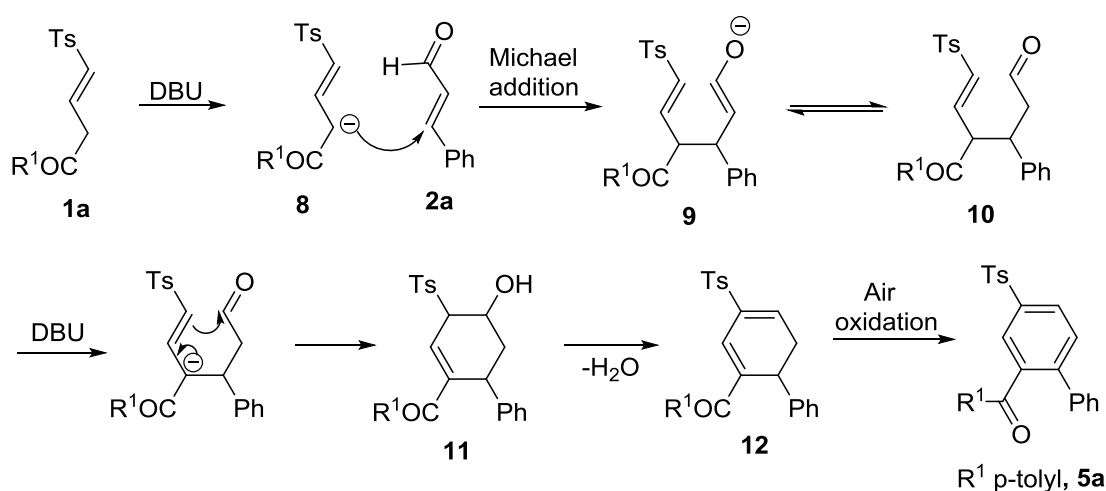
The promising results of benzannulation reaction with α , β -unsaturated aldehydes prompted us to explore its applicability to enones. Readily prepared chalcone **6** was chosen as a representative unsaturated ketone for this purpose. Smooth conversions of **6** to the highly substituted benzophenone derivatives **7a-b** were observed when the former was reacted with trimethoxyphenyl (**1e**) as well as isopropyl (**1f**) keto-sulfones, albeit in slightly reduced yields (Scheme 9). It may be noted that the newly installed benzene ring is endowed with four rather bulky substituents at well defined positions.



Scheme 9: Benzannulation reaction of trans-chalcone **6** and enals

3.5. Plausible mechanism of the benzannulation reaction

A simplified plausible mechanism for the benzannulation reaction is depicted in Scheme 10. It is likely that reaction is initiated by deprotonation of 1,3-substituted propene **1a** by DBU to generate the stabilized carbanion **8**. The latter may undergo an intermolecular Michael addition with enals/enones **2**. It may be noted that carbanion may react via either of its terminal carbons. It is presumable that the carbanion **8** reacts via the sterically less hindered α -carbonyl end with enal **2**, which results in the formation of enolate **9**. Further, deprotonation and intramolecular nucleophilic addition of the resulting carbanion to the aldehyde affords the cyclohexenol derivative **11**. The dehydrodaration of **11** generates cyclohexadiene **12**. The final aromatic product **5a** is then formed via oxidation of **12** by atmospheric oxygen.



Scheme 10: Plausible mechanism for benzannulation reaction

It is worth to note that the cyclohexadiene moiety **12** can also undergo aromatization by eliminating tosyl moiety via base promoted H-shift and then β -elimination. This is presumably slower than the aerial oxidation and the sulfonyl moiety is retained in the final product.

3.6. Conclusion

In conclusion, a base promoted regioselective synthesis of substituted benzophenone/arenes via aerobic oxidative [3+3] benzannulation reaction of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds and 1,3-bisnucleophile (1,3-disubstituted propene) was developed. In this reaction two acyclic precursors were assembled to afford arylsulfonyl bearing benzophenone. The reaction described here proceeds at room temperature in an open flask, in presence of DBU under mild conditions. Additionally, the reaction uses no metals and utilizes atmospheric oxygen for oxidation. The benzannulation method is notable for its efficiency, scope and generality. The reaction afforded highly substituted sulfonyl containing benzophenone derivatives which are difficult to synthesize via conventional methods. It is presumable that the method may find applications in the targeted synthesis of designer benzophenone derivatives of importance.

3.7. Experimental section

General information

All ^1H NMR (400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 solvent at ambient temperature, chemical shift δ are given in ppm on a scale downfield from TMS, and the coupling constant J are in Hz. The signal patterns are indicated as follows: s, Singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; dd, doublet of doublet; m, multiplet; brs = broad). FTIR spectra were recorded as neat. Melting points were recorded on an electrothermal apparatus and are uncorrected. All the reagents and solvents were used without further purification unless specified otherwise. Technical grade ethyl acetate and petroleum ether used for column chromatography were distilled prior to use. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (60-120 mesh and 100- 200

mesh) packed in glass columns. All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. TLC analysis was performed on commercially prepared 60 F₂₅₄ silica gel plates. Visualization of spots on TLC plate was accomplished with UV light (254 nm) and staining by KMnO₄. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded with q-TOF electrospray mass spectrometer. All purchased chemicals were used as received.

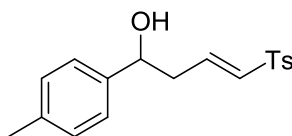
Synthesis of Alkene 3: General Procedure²⁵

A solution of allyl magnesium bromide (1M in diethyl ether, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of aldehyde (1 equiv) in anhydrous diethyl ether at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for overnight. After completion of reaction an aqueous solution of NH₄Cl was added at 0 °C. The organic layer was extracted ether. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and solvent was evaporated on rotavapour. The crude material was purified by Column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as eluent to afford pure homoallylic alcohols **3**.

Synthesis of Vinyl Sulfones: General Procedure²⁶

To a stirred solution of alkene **3** (2.0 mmol) and ArSO₂Na (2 equiv) in MeCN (20 mL), NaIO₄ (10mol %), KI (10 mol %) and 2-3 drops of AcOH were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was quenched by adding sat. aq Na₂S₂O₃ (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The extract was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and solvent was evaporated on a rotavapor. Column chromatography of the resulting residue on silica gel using ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as eluent afforded analytically pure samples of the vinyl sulfones **4a-h**.

Spectroscopic data for vinyl sulfones

**4a, (E)-1-(p-tolyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-ol**

White solid, 480 mg, 76%

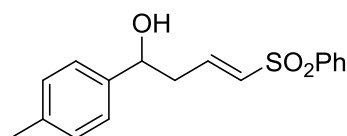
Melting point: 102-104°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3508, 3041, 2922, 2883, 1635, 1595, 1440, 1267, 1138, 1031, 813, 522

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68 (d, $J = 8.3\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.3\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.98–6.88(m, 1H), 6.32 (d,t, $J = 15.2, 1.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 4.79 (d,d, $J = 7.0, 5.8\text{Hz}$, 1H), 2.71–2.53 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.32(s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.3, 142.4, 140.1, 137.8, 137.5, 132.9, 129.9, 129.4, 127.7, 125.7, 72.6, 40.8, 21.7, 21.2

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}_2\text{O}$) 334.1239 ; found 334.1437

**4b, (E)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(p-tolyl)but-3-en-1-ol**

White solid, 447 mg, 74%

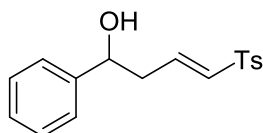
Melting point: 106-107°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3535, 2889, 1629, 1583, 1444, 1419, 1300, 1138, 1047, 748, 580

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 8.1\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.61(t, $J = 7.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.51(t, $J = 7.7\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.1\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.1\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.03–6.94 (m, 1H), 6.35 (dt, $J = 15.1, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 4.84–4.79 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.57 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.0, 140.5, 140.0, 137.9, 133.3, 132.7, 129.4, 129.2, 127.6, 125.6, 72.6, 40.8, 21.1

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}_2\text{O}$) 320.1082 ; found 320.1283



4c, (E)-1-phenyl-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-ol

White solid, 453 mg, 75%

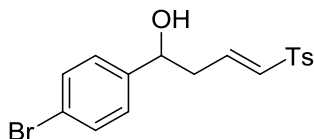
Melting point: 109-110°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3491, 3064, 2926, 2870, 1624, 1593, 1450, 1398, 1284, 1139, 1078, 756, 673

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (d, $J = 8.3\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.37–7.21 (m, 7H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.33 (d,t, $J = 14.3, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 4.82 (dd, $J = 7.5, 5.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 2.71–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.3, 143.1, 142.3, 137.4, 133.0, 129.9, 128.7, 128.1, 127.7, 125.7, 72.7, 40.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}_2\text{O}$) 320.1082 ; found 320.1281



4d, (E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-ol

Yellow solid, 617 mg, 81%

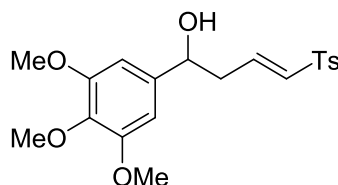
Melting point: 107-108°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3510, 3047, 2879, 1635, 1593, 1483, 1309, 1280, 1141, 1041, 813, 657, 524

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.94–6.87 (m, 1H), 6.30 (dt, $J = 15.1, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.83 (dd, $J = 7.0, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.68–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H)

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.5, 142.0, 141.6, 137.3, 133.4, 131.8, 129.9, 127.6, 127.4, 121.8, 72.0, 40.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₁₉BrO₄S (M+ H₂O) 398.0187; found 398.0406



4e, (E)-4-tosyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-ol

White solid, 612 mg, 78%

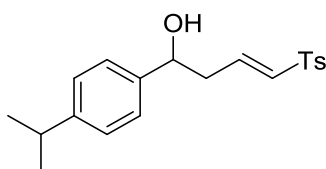
Melting point: 140-142°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3512, 2935, 1589, 1485, 1419, 1305, 1235, 1122, 1082, 655, 534

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.98–6.91 (m, 1H), 6.49 (s, 2H), 6.34 (dt, $J = 15.2, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 7.3-5.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.62-2.56 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H)

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.38, 153.36, 144.4, 142.4, 139.0, 137.4, 132.8, 129.9, 127.6, 102.5, 72.8, 60.8, 56.1, 40.9, 21.6

HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₆O₇S (M+H₂O) 410.1399 ; found 410.1643



4f, (E)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-ol

White solid, 502 mg, 73%

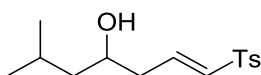
Melting point: 107-109°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3566, 3047, 2958, 1629, 1593, 1458, 1415, 1300, 1139, 1082, 812, 661, 528

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.99–6.94 (m, 1H), 6.34 (dt, $J = 14.9, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 2.90-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.68-2.59 (m, 2H), 2.40 (m, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.9, 144.3, 142.4, 140.4, 137.5, 133.0, 129.9, 127.7, 126.8, 125.7, 72.7, 40.7, 33.9, 24.03, 24.02, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}_2\text{O}$) 362.1552 ; found 362.1793



4g, (E)-6-methyl-1-tosylhept-1-en-4-ol

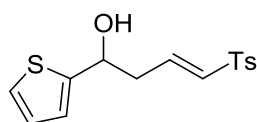
Yellow viscous liquid, 401 mg, 71%

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3506, 3047, 2954, 1631, 1597, 1462, 1402, 1288, 1139, 1085, 810, 661

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.00-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.37 (d, $J = 15.1\text{Hz}$, 1H), 3.82–3.77 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.32–2.26 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.67 (m, 1H), 1.41-1.34 (m, 1H), 1.20–1.14 (m, 1H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.1\text{Hz}$)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.4, 143.2, 137.5, 132.6, 129.9, 127.7, 68.2, 46.3, 39.8, 24.5, 23.3, 21.9, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) 300.1395 ; found 300.1636

**4h, (E)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-ol**

Reddish Solid, 419 mg, 68%

Melting point: 104-105°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3483, 3049, 1631, 1597, 1492, 1402, 1286, 1139, 1082, 810, 659

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (d, $J = 8.1\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.19 (dd, $J = 5.6, 2.9\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.94–6.88 (m, 3H), 6.34 (d, $J = 15.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 2.76-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H)

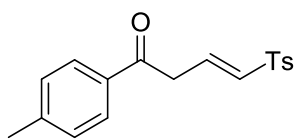
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.0, 144.4, 141.9, 137.2, 133.1, 129.9, 127.7, 126.8, 125.0, 124.1, 68.5, 41.0, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ (M+H) 326.0647 ; found 326.0878

Synthesis of 1, 3-bisnucleophile: General procedure

To a solution of Dess-Martin Periodinane (2.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 ml) at room temperature was added a solution of vinyl sulfone (1.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 ml). After 1 h of stirring (reaction was monitored by TLC), the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL) and quenched with 1/1 10% $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ /saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution followed by brine. The extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. Column chromatography of the resulting residue on silica gel using ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as eluent afforded analytically pure samples of 1, 3-bisnucleophile **1a-h**.

Spectroscopic data of 1, 3-bisnucleophile

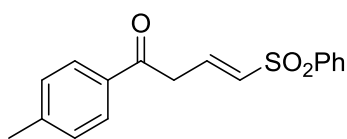
**1a, (E)-1-(p-tolyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-one**

White solid, 279 mg, 89%

Melting point: 111-113°C**IR (KBr)** ν_{\max} : 2980, 2929, 1664, 1624, 1598, 1450, 1409, 1319, 1288, 1143, 821

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75–7.70 (m, 4H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 15.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.76–6.68 (m, 1H), 4.00 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.0\text{Hz}$), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.39(s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.75, 145.3, 144.4, 135.3, 134.3, 133.5, 132.0, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 59.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 315.1056 ; found 315.1061**1b, (E)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(p-tolyl)but-3-en-1-one**

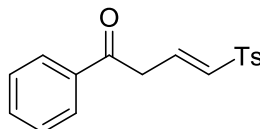
White solid, 261 mg, 87%

Melting point: 108-109°C**IR (KBr)** ν_{\max} : 2974, 2918, 1664, 1608, 1448, 1408, 1292, 1145, 979, 727, 584

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 7.7\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.90 (dt, $J = 15.4, 1.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.77-6.70 (m, 1H), 4.03 (dd, 8.0, 1.0Hz, 2H), 2.4 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.6, 144.5, 138.2, 134.3, 134.2, 133.6, 131.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 59.6, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 301.0899 ; found 301.0901



1c, (E)-1-phenyl-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-on

White solid, 267 mg, 89%

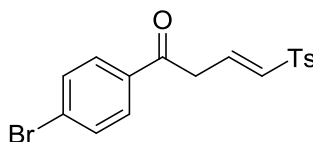
Melting point: 113-114°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3082, 2978, 2918, 1658, 1624, 1446, 1409, 1317, 1292, 1139, 696, 516

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$), 7.59-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.90 (dt, 15.4, 1.0Hz, 1H), 6.78–6.70 (m, 1H), 4.01 (dd, 7.6, 1.0Hz, 2H), 2.42(s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 189.2, 145.3, 136.8, 135.3, 133.5, 133.4, 132.5, 130.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 59.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 301.0899 ; found 301.0904



1d, (E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-one

Yellow solid, 345 mg, 91%

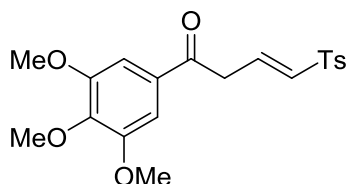
Melting point: 116-117°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2924, 1668, 1622, 1581, 1487, 1444, 1286, 1134, 812, 513

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.8\text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.88 (d, $J = 15.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.79-6.71 (m, 1H), 4.01 (dd, $J = 7.6, 0.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.1, 135.5, 135.3, 133.1, 132.9, 132.1, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7, 128.4, 59.6, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 379.0004 ; found 378.9996



1e, (E)-4-tosyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-one

White solid, 347 mg, 89%

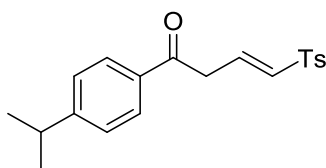
Melting point: 168-169°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2951, 2839, 1668, 1625, 1583, 1460, 1413, 1307, 1116, 767, 516

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.13 (s, 2H), 6.91 (d, $J = 15.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.76–6.68 (m, 1H), 4.01 (dd, $J = 7.6, 0.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.2, 153.2, 145.4, 143.0, 135.4, 133.4, 132.1, 132.0, 130.1, 128.4, 106.4, 61.0, 59.6, 56.4, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ (M+H) 391.1216 ; found 391.1211



1f, (E)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-one

White solid, 288 mg, 84%

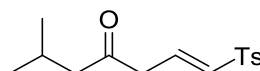
Melting point: 112-113°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2969, 2927, 1659, 1598, 1463, 1409, 1292, 1139, 669, 518

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78–7.75 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 15.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 6.77–6.69 (m, 1H), 4.02 (dd, $J = 7.6, 0.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 3.00–2.93 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.27 (d, $J = 6.8\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.8, 155.1, 145.2, 135.3, 134.6, 133.6, 132.1, 130.0, 129.0, 128.5, 126.9, 59.7, 34.3, 23.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 343.1369 ; found 343.1363



1g, (E)-6-methyl-1-tosylhept-1-en-4-one

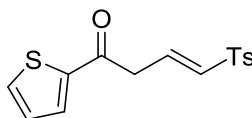
Yellow viscous liquid, 230 mg, 82%

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2958, 1707, 1670, 1597, 1429, 1404, 1292, 1141, 813, 516

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.61–6.52 (m, 1H), 6.02 (dt, $J = 16.0, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 3.90 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.35 (d, 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.09–2.02 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, $J = 6.6\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.1, 145.4, 137.3, 135.1, 130.8, 130.0, 128.4, 59.5, 49.4, 25.0, 22.6, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 281.1212 ; found 281.1206



1h, (E)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)-4-tosylbut-3-en-1-one

Yellow solid, 239 mg, 78%

Melting point: 123-125 °C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3039, 2972, 2906, 1649, 1616, 1512, 1408, 1290, 1139, 754, 518

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.68–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.13 (t, $J = 4.2\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 6.83–6.74 (m, 2H), 4.01 (d, $J = 4.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

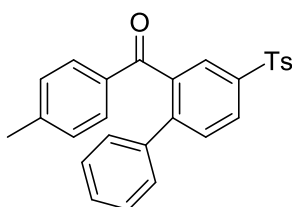
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 180.8, 145.4, 144.2, 135.3, 135.0, 132.9, 132.8, 131.9, 130.1, 128.5, 128.4, 59.5, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$ (M+H) 307.0463; found 307.0458

DBU-mediated benzannulation reaction: General method

DBU (0.45 mmol) was added to a solution cinnamaldehyde **2** (0.3 mmol) and 1, 3-bis-nucleophile **1** (0.33 mmol) in DMF (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1h. After completion of the reaction, 10 mL deionized water was added and the solution was extracted with ethylacetate (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and the solvent was evaporated on a rotavapor under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent to afford analytically pure sample of the product.

Spectroscopic data for the products



5a, p-tolyl(4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone

White solid, 95 mg, 74%

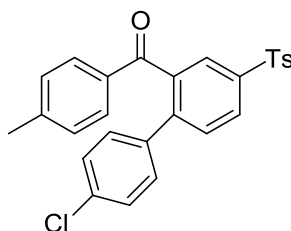
Melting point: 143-144°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3022, 2970, 1741, 1660, 1598, 1369, 1153, 1097, 664, 532

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.08 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.22 (s, 5H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.3, 145.6, 144.7, 144.6, 140.8, 140.1, 138.5, 138.2, 133.9, 131.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 21.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 427.1369 ; found 427.1390



5b, (4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone

White solid, 105 mg, 76%

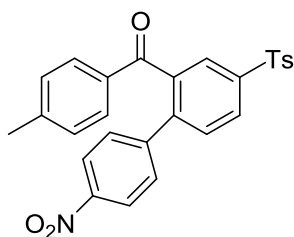
Melting point: 153-154°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3010, 2982, 1746, 1621, 1570, 1388, 1190, 1060, 765, 540

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.31 (dd, $J = 8.4, 0.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 145.0, 144.7, 144.3, 141.1, 140.0, 138.1, 136.9, 134.7, 133.7, 131.1, 130.25, 130.21, 130.1, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 127.6, 21.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 461.0979 ; found 461.0959



5c, (4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone

Yellow solid, 112 mg, 79%

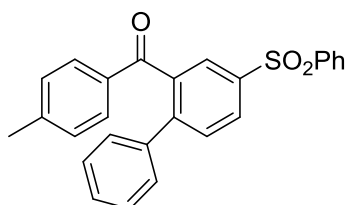
Melting point: 157-158°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2924, 1660, 1597, 1512, 1448, 1408, 1340, 1249, 1157, 1157, 682, 596

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14–8.09 (m, 3H), 8.04 (d, $J = 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$ 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.4, 147.6, 145.5, 145.1, 144.9, 143.2, 142.2, 140.2, 137.8, 133.6, 131.1, 130.2, 129.7, 129.6, 129.1, 128.0, 127.8, 123.8, 21.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$ (M+H) 472.1219 ; found 472.1242



5d, (4-(phenylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone

White solid, 89 mg, 72%

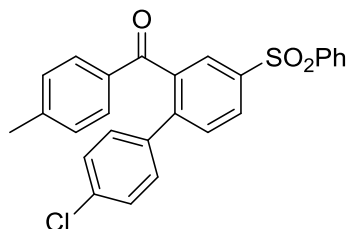
Melting point: 141-142°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3017, 2951, 1744, 1634, 1568, 1440, 1370, 1110, 1012, 840, 548

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 4H), 7.21 (s, 5H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.3, 145.8, 144.7, 141.2, 140.4, 140.2, 138.4, 133.9, 133.5, 131.2, 130.2, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 21.8

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 413.1209 ; found 413.1206



5e, (4'-chloro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone

White solid, 99 mg, 74%

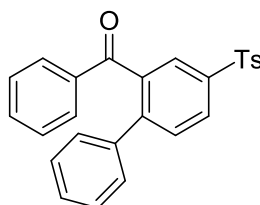
Melting point: 151-153°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3045, 2981, 1745, 1654, 1520, 1448, 1358, 1138, 1028, 765, 535

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 1.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59–7.50 (m, 6H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 6H), 2.36 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 145.1, 144.5, 141.1, 140.7, 140.1, 136.9, 134.7, 133.7, 133.6, 131.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.7, 21.8

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 447.0822 ; found 447.0842



5f, phenyl(4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone

White solid, 86 mg, 70%

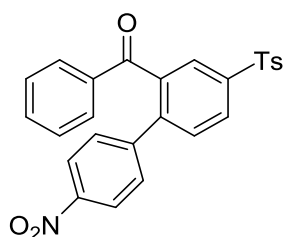
Melting point: 139-141°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2922, 1666, 1591, 1446, 1400, 1315, 1248, 1149, 675, 548

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.60–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 4H), 7.19 (s, 5H), 2.40 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 145.7, 144.6, 140.9, 139.9, 138.4, 138.2, 136.4, 133.5, 131.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 413.1212 ; found 413.1194



5g, (4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone

Yellow solid, 107 mg, 78%

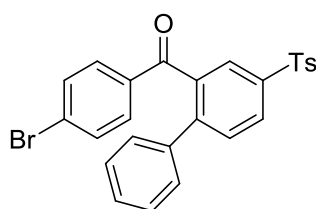
Melting point: 153-154°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3022, 2970, 1739, 1589, 1367, 1224, 1037, 532

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.15 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.12-8.08 (m, 3H), 7.86 (dt, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.8, 147.6, 145.0, 143.4, 142.3, 139.9, 137.8, 136.1, 134.2, 131.2, 130.3, 130.0, 129.8, 128.8, 128.0, 127.9, 123.8, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$ (M+H) 458.1063 ; found 458.1038

**5h, (4-bromophenyl)(4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone**

Yellow solid, 113 mg, 77%

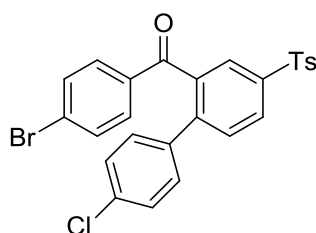
Melting point: 158-159°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3012, 2967, 1735, 1665, 1570, 1443, 1361, 1047, 840, 546

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.85 (dt, $J = 8.4, 1.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 5H), 2.41 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.8, 145.6, 144.7, 141.2, 139.3, 138.2, 138.1, 135.2, 131.8, 131.28, 131.22, 130.2, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 491.0317 ; found 491.0292

**5i, (4-bromophenyl)(4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone**

Yellow solid, 128 mg, 81%

$R_f = 0.7$ (20% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

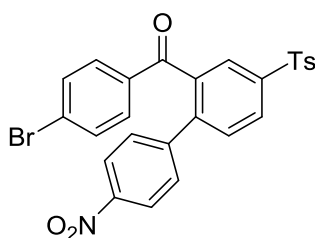
Melting point: 170-171°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3064, 1668, 1581, 1494, 1469, 1292, 1147, 813, 648, 584

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.5\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.5\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.5, 144.8, 144.2, 141.5, 139.2, 139.2, 137.9, 136.6, 135.0, 132.0, 131.3, 131.2, 130.2, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 127.9, 127.7, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrClO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 524.9928 ; found 524.9939



5j, (4-bromophenyl)(4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone

Yellow solid, 133 mg, 83%

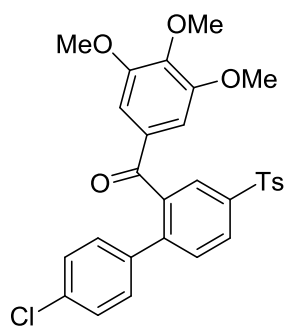
Melting point: 176-178°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3057, 1668, 1585, 1517, 1396, 1344, 1151, 657, 584

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 8.04 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.8, 147.7, 145.1, 144.8, 143.2, 142.5, 139.3, 137.7, 134.8, 132.2, 131.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.0, 127.8, 123.9, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNO}_5\text{S}$ (M+H) 536.0168 ; found 536.0189

**5k, (4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone**

White solid, 121 mg, 76%

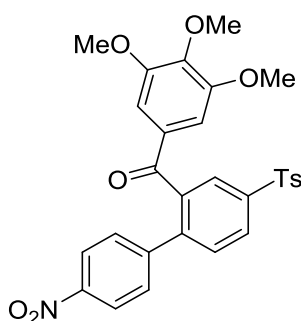
Melting point: 159-161 °C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2931, 1743, 1662, 1583, 1498, 1460, 1409, 1321, 1120, 655, 584

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 1.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 2.40 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 144.8, 144.5, 143.3, 141.1, 139.6, 138.0, 136.9, 134.8, 131.26, 131.21, 130.2, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 127.94, 127.90, 107.7, 61.0, 56.3, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClO}_6\text{S}$ (M+H) 537.1139 ; found 537.1143

**5l, (4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone**

Yellow solid, 131 mg, 80%

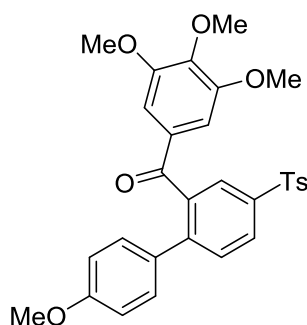
Melting point: 163-165 °C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2973, 1758, 1648, 1582, 1469, 1454, 1413, 1308, 1164, 723, 567

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16-8.11 (m, 3H), 8.05 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.90 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.40 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.2, 153.1, 147.7, 145.1, 145.0, 143.7, 143.6, 142.1, 139.7, 137.8, 131.4, 130.9, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.0, 127.9, 123.9, 107.8, 61.1, 56.3, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_8\text{S}$ (M+H) 548.1380 ; found 548.1353



5m, (4'-methoxy-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone

White solid, 105 mg, 66%

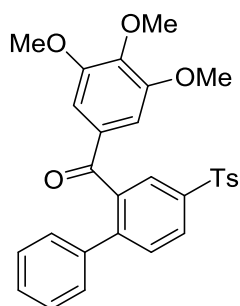
Melting point: 178-179°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2933, 2837, 1664, 1583, 1508, 1458, 1409, 1321, 1153, 1006, 657, 567

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.6, 159.9, 152.9, 145.3, 144.6, 143.0, 140.2, 139.4, 138.2, 131.3, 131.0, 130.8, 130.16, 130.10, 129.0, 127.8, 114.2, 107.7, 61.0, 56.3, 55.2, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_7\text{S}$ (M+H) 533.1635 ; found 533.1631



5n, (4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone

White solid, 107 mg, 71%

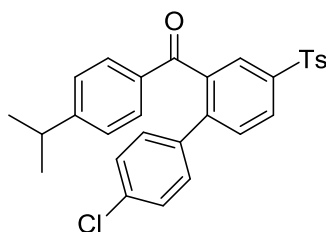
Melting point: 145-146°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3053, 2933, 1664, 1583, 1498, 1454, 1323, 1226, 1118, 1004, 654, 574

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 5H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 2.39 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 152.8, 145.7, 144.7, 143.0, 140.8, 139.7, 138.4, 138.2, 131.3, 131.2, 130.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.93, 127.90, 107.7, 60.9, 56.3, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ (M+H) 503.1529 ; found 503.1524



5o, (4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(4-isopropylphenyl)methanone

White solid, 111 mg, 76%

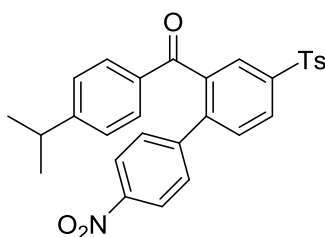
Melting point: 152-154°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3057, 2960, 1664, 1598, 1465, 1411, 1292, 1151, 810, 665, 586

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.20–7.12 (m, 6H), 2.94–2.87 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.23 (d, $J = 7.2\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 155.6, 144.7, 144.5, 141.1, 140.1, 138.1, 137.0, 134.6, 134.0, 131.1, 130.4, 130.2, 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 127.7, 126.8, 34.3, 23.6, 21.9

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClO}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 489.1292 ; found 489.1272



5p, (4-isopropylphenyl)(4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone

Yellow solid, 121 mg, 81%

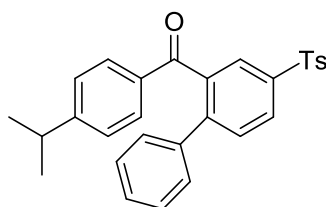
Melting point: 160–161°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3061, 2962, 1662, 1598, 1517, 1462, 1413, 1344, 1286, 1153, 1101, 810, 586

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.13–8.10 (m, 3H), 8.05 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), .84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59–7.56 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.95–2.89 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.8\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 156.1, 147.6, 145.1, 144.9, 143.4, 142.1, 140.2, 137.8, 134.0, 131.2, 130.5, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.0, 123.7, 34.4, 23.5, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$ (M+H) 500.1542 ; found 500.1538



5q, (4-isopropylphenyl)(4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanone

White solid, 99 mg, 73%

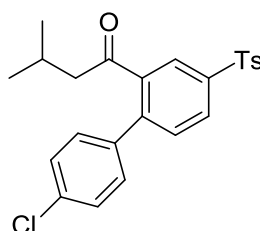
Melting point: 151-153°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3057, 2964, 1666, 1597, 1465, 1413, 1315, 1151, 1101, 813, 578

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.21 (s, 5H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.92–2.85 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d, $J = 6.8\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.2, 155.3, 145.8, 144.6, 140.7, 140.1, 138.5, 138.2, 134.3, 131.3, 130.4, 130.1128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 126.6, 34.3, 32.6, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 455.1682 ; found 455.1661



5r, 1-(4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one

White solid, 88 mg, 69%

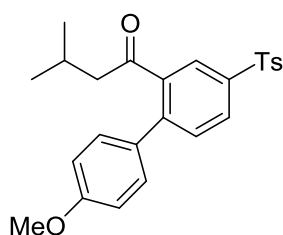
Melting point: 114-115°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2958, 2927, 1689, 1591, 1496, 1463, 1317, 1296, 1151, 1089, 815, 659

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.4Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.19 (d, *J* = 6.8Hz, 2H), 2.00–1.90 (m, 1H), 0.74 (d, *J* = 6.4Hz, 6H)

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.2, 144.7, 143.2, 142.0, 141.6, 138.0, 137.2, 135.1, 131.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.1, 129.0, 127.9, 126.7, 51.7, 24.7, 22.4, 21.7

HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₃ClO₃S (M+H) 427.1135 ; found 427.1122



5s, 1-(4'-methoxy-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one

White solid, 80 mg, 63%

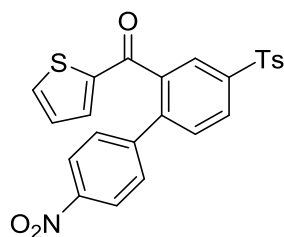
Melting point: 104-105°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2964, 2927, 1691, 1606, 1516, 1463, 1392, 1247, 1147, 1095, 665, 536

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 2.0, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 6.8Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.88 (m, 1H), 0.71 (d, *j* = 6.8Hz, 6H)

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.2, 160.2, 144.5, 144.1, 142.0, 140.8, 138.3, 131.1, 131.0, 130.16, 130.13, 128.8, 127.9, 126.7, 114.4, 55.4, 51.6, 24.9, 22.4, 21.6

HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₂₆O₄S (M+H) 423.1631 ; found 423.1618

**5t, (4'-nitro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanone**

Yellow solid, 106 mg, 76%

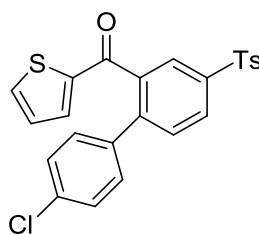
Melting point: 165-167°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2967, 1649, 1584, 1487, 1458, 1309, 1137, 1058, 819, 567

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16–8.12 (m, 4H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.72 (dd, $J = 4.8, 0.8\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.05 (dd, $J = 4.8, 4.0\text{Hz}$), 2.41 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 187.5, 147.7, 145.0, 144.9, 143.4, 143.1, 142.3, 139.7, 137.7, 136.6, 136.1, 131.4, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.6, 128.0, 127.7, 123.9, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5\text{S}_2$ (M+H) 464.0627 ; found 464.0614

**5u, (4'-chloro-4-tosyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanone**

Yellow solid, 94 mg, 69%

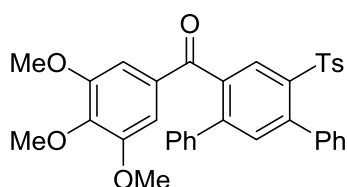
Melting point: 156-157°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2924, 1656, 1591, 1496, 1441, 1318, 1143, 1081, 829, 545

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.67 (dd, $J = 4.8, 1.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 5H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 4.8, 4.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.2, 144.8, 144.1, 143.6, 141.2, 139.6, 138.0, 136.8, 136.0, 135.9, 134.8, 131.3, 130.2, 130.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 127.9, 127.5, 21.7

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3\text{S}_2$ (M+H) 453.0387 ; found 453.0380



7a, (6'-tosyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone

White solid, 114 mg, 66%

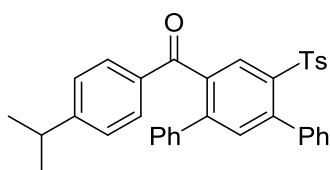
Melting point: 181-183°C

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2926, 1658, 1583, 1498, 1454, 1325, 1122, 1001, 698, 578

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 7H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$, 4H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.4, 152.9, 143.9, 143.1, 138.8, 138.2, 137.9, 137.5, 137.4, 134.6, 131.6, 129.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 107.9, 61.0, 56.4, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ (M+H) 579.1842 ; found 579.1823



7b, (4-isopropylphenyl)(6'-tosyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-yl)methanone

White solid, 100 mg, 63%

Melting point: 195-196°C

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 2958, 1664, 1600, 1537, 1492, 1448, 1290, 1143, 954, 700, 569

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.63–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 9H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 2.97-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.25 (d, $J = 7.2\text{Hz}$, 6H)

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.3, 155.3, 145.6, 143.7, 143.6, 138.5, 138.36, 138.34, 137.6, 137.5, 134.7, 134.5, 130.6, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.08, 128.04, 127.4, 126.7, 34.4, 23.6, 21.6

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (M+H) 531.1995 ; found 531.1983

3.8. References

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3.9. NMR spectra of new compounds [^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3)]

