

Rhodium-catalyzed regioselective cross-coupling of styrene oxides with arylboronic acids in aqueous γ -valerolactone

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General Experimental

Unless otherwise noted, all chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers (Aladdin) and used without further purification. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature on a Bruker AVANCE III 500 spectrometer (^1H : 500 MHz; ^{13}C : 125 MHz). Chemical shifts are reported in δ units, parts per million (ppm), and were referenced to CDCl_3 (7.26 or 77.0 ppm) as the internal standard. The coupling constants J are given in Hz. Column chromatography was performed using EM Silica gel 60 (300-400 mesh). High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was performed on an Agilent Q-TOF 6540 MS instrument with an ESI source.

Experimental Procedures, Spectral and Analytical data

General procedure for the synthesis of **3**

A sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with styrene oxide **1** (0.2 mmol), arylboronic acid **2** (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv), $\text{Rh}(\text{PPh}_3)_3\text{Cl}$ (0.5 mol%), Na_2CO_3 (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and GVL/ H_2O (1:1, 2 ml) under N_2 . The mixture was then heated to 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred for 12 h. Upon reaction completion, the resulting solution was quenched with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The collected organic extracts were dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1) as eluent to afford product **3**.

Characterization data of product **3**

1,2-Diphenylethan-1-ol (**3a**) [S1]. Colourless oil (34 mg, 85%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38-7.26 (m, 7H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 3H), 4.90 (dd, J = 8.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.08-2.97 (m, 2H), 1.98 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.9, 138.2, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.6, 126.0, 75.4, 46.2.

1-Phenyl-2-(o-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (**3b**) [S1]. Colourless oil (30 mg, 71%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.12(m, 4H), 4.86 (dd, J = 8.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.09-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.2, 136.8, 136.4, 130.5, 130.3, 128.4, 127.6, 126.8, 126.0, 125.8, 74.5, 43.4, 19.6.

1-Phenyl-2-(m-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (**3c**) [S2]. Colourless oil (28 mg, 67%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37-7.17 (m, 6H), 7.05-6.98 (m, 3H), 4.86 (dd, J = 9.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0, 138.2, 138.0, 130.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 127.4, 126.5, 125.9, 75.3, 46.2, 21.4.

1-Phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (3d) [S3]. Colourless oil (32 mg, 76%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 4H), 4.82-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.09-2.83 (m, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0, 136.2, 135.0, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 127.6, 126.0, 75.4, 45.7, 21.1.

2-(4-tert-Butylphenyl)-1-phenylethan-1-ol (3e) [S2]. Colourless oil (31 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.22 (m, 7H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (ddd, *J* = 43.5, 13.5, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.01 (s, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.5, 144.1, 135.1, 129.2, 128.4, 127.6, 125.9, 125.5, 75.3, 45.7, 34.5, 31.4.

2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-ol (3f) [S2]. Light yellow amorphous solid (35 mg, 64%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.18 (m, 10H), 4.91 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06-3.00 (m, 2H), 2.09 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.9, 140.8, 140.5, 138.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.5, 127.3, 127.1, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 75.1, 46.0.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenylethan-1-ol (3g) [S3]. Colourless oil (32 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.6, 136.5, 132.4, 130.9, 128.5, 128.5, 127.8, 125.9, 75.3, 45.2.

1-Phenyl-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethan-1-ol (3h) [S3]. Colourless oil (32 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.17 (m, 7H), 4.89-4.86 (m, 1H), 3.14-2.95 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.5, 142.3, 123.0, 129.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.0 Hz), 128.6, 127.9, 126.0, 125.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 3.7 Hz), 124.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 270.0 Hz), 75.2, 45.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.8.

2-Phenyl-1-(o-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (3i) [S1]. Colourless oil (31 mg, 73%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.30 (m, 8H), 5.08 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.1, 138.4, 134.4, 130.3, 129.5, 128.5, 127.3, 126.6, 126.4, 125.3, 71.8, 45.1, 19.0.

2-Phenyl-1-(m-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (3j) [S1]. Colourless oil (32 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.9, 138.6, 138.1, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 126.6, 123.0, 75.4, 46.1, 21.5.

2-Phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-ol (3k) [S1]. Light yellow oil (30 mg, 71%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.13 (m, 9H), 4.82-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.02-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.9, 138.2, 137.2, 129.5, 129.1, 128.5, 126.5, 125.9, 75.2, 46.0, 21.1.

1-(4-tert-Butylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3l) [S1]. Colourless oil (36 mg, 70%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 3H), 4.86-4.84 (m, 1H), 3.05-2.94 (m, 2H), 1.96 (s, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.6, 140.9, 138.4, 129.5, 128.5, 126.5, 125.6, 125.3, 75.1, 45.9, 34.5, 31.4.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3m) [S1]. Light yellow amorphous solid (30 mg, 64%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.85 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.3, 137.5, 133.2, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 126.8, 74.6, 46.1.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3n) [S1]. Colourless oil (31 mg, 68%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.15 (m, 7H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 138.2, 136.1, 129.5, 128.5, 127.2, 126.5, 113.8, 75.0, 55.3, 46.0.

1-(4-Methylthiophenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3o). Light yellow oil (30 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.20 (m, 7H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (ddd, *J* = 28.0, 13.5, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.8, 137.9, 137.6, 129.5, 128.5, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 74.9, 46.0, 16.0. HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₆NaOS (M+Na)⁺ 267.0814, found 267.0826.

1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3p) [S1]. White amorphous solid (37 mg, 74%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.28 (m, 5H), 5.00 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12-3.01 (m, 2H), 2.17 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.3, 138.1, 133.4, 133.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 126.7, 126.2, 125.9, 124.7, 124.2, 75.4, 46.0.

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Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra































