

Efficient thiocyanation of phenols and anilines in the CeBr₃/H₂O₂ system

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Contents

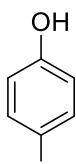
1. General experimental.....	S1
2. Characterization data of product 2 , 5 , 6	S2
3. Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra.....	S6

General experimental

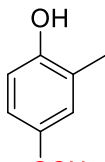
All reagents were obtained from local commercial suppliers and used without further purification. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC using analytical-grade silica gel plates (GF254) under UV light. Fourier transform Infrared data were recorded on an AVATAR-370 (Nicolet) spectrometer by transmission through the sample deposited on a KBr pellet. Melting points (m.p.) are determined with an Optimelt MPA 100 apparatus and are not corrected. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ at 300 MHz instrument respectively, using TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts are given in parts per million (δ , ppm) and the coupling constants *J* are given in Hz. Mass spectrometry was performed on an LCMS-2010 EV (Shimadzu) instrument with an ESI source. The reaction temperature of the water bath was controlled at room temperature (25 °C).

General procedure for the synthesis of 2a-n. A solution of phenol **1a-g** or aniline **1h-n** (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), CeBr₃ (0.1 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) and ammonium thiocyanate (1.5 mmol, 3 equiv.) in EtOAc (2 ml) was cooled to 0 °C. Then 30% H₂O₂ (3.5 equiv.) was added dropwise in 30 min. After completion, the mixture was stirred for more 2 h at room temperature (TLC control). The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×5 ml) and washed with water. The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate to afford the pure desired product **2a-n**. Compounds **5,6** were synthesized using the same procedure.

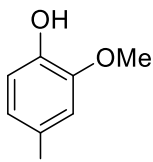
Characterization data of products 2, 5, 6



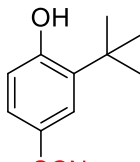
SCN 4-Thiocyanatophenol (**2a**).^{S1} Brown solid (74.5 mg, 99%). M.p. 48~50 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 134.2, 117.5, 113.4, 112.1. MS (ESI): 152.0 [M + H]⁺.



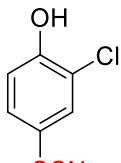
SCN 2-Methyl-4-thiocyanatophenol (**2b**).^{S2} Yellow solid (78 mg, 95%). M.p. 73~75 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.6, 135.1, 131.3, 127.5, 116.9, 112.8, 112.2, 15.9. MS (ESI): 166.0 [M + H]⁺.



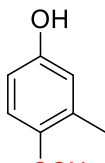
SCN 2-Methoxy-4-thiocyanatophenol (**2c**).^{S1} White solid (85 mg, 94%). M.p. 95~97 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.01 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.88 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 147.6, 126.3, 116.0, 114.5, 112.9, 111.9, 56.3. MS (ESI): 182.0 [M + H]⁺.



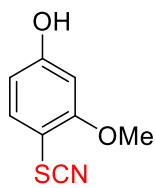
SCN 2-(*tert*-Butyl)-4-thiocyanatophenol (**2d**).^{S3} Yellow oil (94 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.0, 138.9, 131.9, 131.6, 118.3, 112.60, 112.58, 35.0, 29.6. MS (ESI): 208.2 [M + H]⁺.



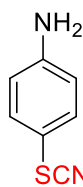
SCN 2-Chloro-4-thiocyanatophenol (**2e**).^{S4} White solid (79 mg, 85%). M.p. 98~100 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.5, 132.7, 132.5, 121.5, 118.0, 114.8, 110.9. MS (ESI): 186.1 [M + H]⁺.



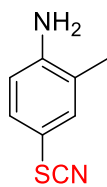
SCN 3-Methyl-4-thiocyanatophenol (**2f**).^{S2} Yellow solid (79 mg, 96%). M.p. 77~79 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dt, *J* = 18.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 143.4, 136.2, 118.7, 115.1, 112.22, 112.20, 21.0. MS (ESI): 166.0 [M + H]⁺.



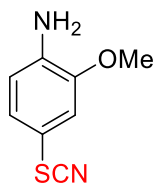
3-Methoxy-4-thiocyanatophenol (2g).^{S1} White solid (86 mg, 95%). M.p. 138~140 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.27 (s, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (t, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.3, 159.7, 135.4, 111.9, 109.4, 101.0, 99.0, 56.8. MS (ESI): 182.2 [M + H]⁺.



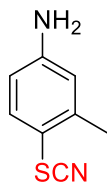
4-Thiocyanatoaniline (2h).^{S1} Brown solid (69 mg, 97%). M.p. 52~54 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 151.9, 135.6, 115.6, 113.8, 105.2. MS (ESI) *m/z* 151.0 [M + H]⁺.



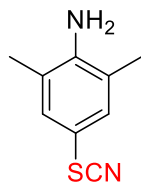
2-Methyl-4-thiocyanatoaniline (2i).^{S3} Brownish solid (69 mg, 92%). M.p. 67~69 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.54 (s, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 150.0, 135.1, 132.8, 123.4, 115.3, 113.5, 105.3, 17.6. MS (ESI) *m/z* 165.0 [M + H]⁺.



2-Methoxy-4-thiocyanatoaniline (2j).^{S5} Brown solid (84 mg, 93%). M.p. 51~53 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.07 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.73-6.70 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 147.1, 141.4, 127.8, 115.5, 114.4, 113.6, 105.5, 56.1. MS (ESI) *m/z* 181.0 [M + H]⁺.

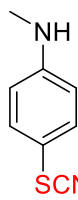


3-Methyl-4-thiocyanatoaniline (2k).^{S1} Brown solid (75 mg, 91%). M.p. 81~83 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 150.0, 135.5, 132.8, 123.4, 115.3, 113.6, 105.3, 17.6. MS (ESI) *m/z* 165.0 [M + H]⁺.

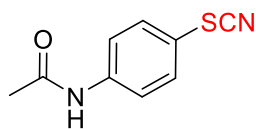


2,6-Dimethyl-4-thiocyanatoaniline (2l).^{S6} Brown solid (81 mg, 91%). M.p. 88~90 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.15 (s, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 2.11 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 147.9, 133.5, 122.9,

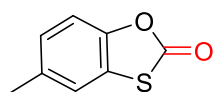
113.5, 105.3, 18.1. MS (ESI) m/z 179.0 $[M + H]^+$.



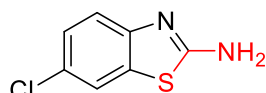
***N*-methyl-4-thiocyanatoaniline (2m).**^{S5} Brownish solid (74 mg, 90%). M.p. 48~50 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 7.42 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 6.64 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 6.37 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 152.3, 135.3, 113.6, 113.3, 105.1, 29.7. MS (ESI) m/z 165.0 $[M + H]^+$.



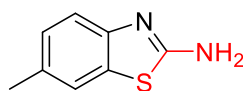
***N*-(4-thiocyanatophenyl)acetamide (2n).**^{S7} Brown solid (85 mg, 88%). M.p. 190~192 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.22 (s, 1H), 7.73-7.70 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 169.4, 141.5, 132.9, 120.8, 116.9, 112.5, 24.5. MS (ESI) m/z 193.0 $[M + H]^+$.



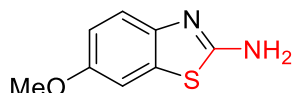
5-Methylbenzo[d][1,3]oxathiol-2-one (5).^{S1} White solid (74 mg, 89%). M.p. 80~82 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.07 (t, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (d, J = 0.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 149.1, 134.7, 127.5, 123.8, 121.9, 110.7, 20.8. MS (ESI) m/z 167.1 $[M + H]^+$.



6-Chlorobenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (6a).^{S8} White solid (75 mg, 82%). M.p. 196~198 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 152.3, 132.8, 126.3, 125.0, 121.0, 119.4. MS (ESI) m/z 185.6 $[M + H]^+$.



6-Methylbenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (6b).^{S9} White solid (76 mg, 93%). M.p. 133~135 °C. ¹H NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.35 (s, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 166.2, 151.1, 131.5, 130.4, 126.9, 121.3, 117.9, 21.2. MS (ESI) m/z 165.0 $[M + H]^+$.



6-Methoxybenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (6c).^{S1} White solid (82 mg, 91%). M.p. 130~132 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 6.82-6.78 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.3, 154.8, 147.3, 132.4, 118.6, 113.4, 106.0, 56.0. MS (ESI) m/z 181.0 $[M + H]^+$.

References

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

