Copper-Catalyzed Domino Cyclization of Anilines and

Cyclobutanone Oxime Ethers: A Scalable and Versatile Route to

Spirotetrahydroquinoline Derivatives

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The synthesis of cyclobutanone oxime

To a mixture of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.2 equiv), sodium acetate (2.2 equiv), methanol (100mL) in a 250-mL two-necked flask was added cyclobutanone (1.0 equiv) and the mixture was stirred at 75 $^{\circ}$ C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then methanol was removedunder vacuum and the resulting mixture was extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washedwith water and dried over MgSO4. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crudematerial was subjected to column chromatography to afford cyclobutanone oxime in 95 % yield.

Reaction and method of cyclobutanone oxime with aniline



A dried straight reaction tube was charged with 1 (0.4 mmol), 2 (0.2 mmol), and Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 20 mol %), then dried N-Hexane (2 mL) was added by using a syringe . The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. After quenching the reaction with aqueous NH₄Cl (2 mL), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on neutral alumina to give the desired product **3**.

Gram level reaction



A dried two-necked flask was charged with **1a** (10 mmol), **2a** (5 mmol), and Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (145 mg, 20 mol %), then dried n-hexane (100 mL) was added by using a syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. After quenching the reaction with aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL), the crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on neutral alumina to give the desired product **3aa** (yellow solid, 1.2g, 82%).



The general procedure was applied to aniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography

on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (27 mg, 92% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.32 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (td, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 3H), 6.71 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (td, J = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 2.99 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.20 (dddd, J = 11.5, 9.6, 4.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 – 1.83 (m, 5H), 1.77 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.68 – 1.58 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.77, 142.98, 128.79, 127.63, 127.36, 126.94, 118.92, 117.54, 115.37, 56.50, 54.77, 50.45, 37.83, 37.52, 33.84, 15.49, 12.66.



3ba, 62%

The general procedure was applied to 4-fluoroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow liquid (21 mg, 62% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.05 (dd, J = 9.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 3H), 6.58 (dd, J = 8.7, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 6.41 – 6.35 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 2.88 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.13 (m, 2H), 2.06 – 1.88 (m, 3H), 1.83 – 1.72 (m, 3H), 1.61 (dtd, J = 17.2, 8.9, 8.4, 3.0 Hz, 2H).13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.96,

155.61, 141.70, 139.28, 129.12, 116.77, 116.32, 115.40, 114.43, 112.96, 57.05, 55.08, 50.23, 37.63, 37.49, 33.56, 15.47, 12.63.



3ca, 80%

The general procedure was applied to 4-chloroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (29 mg, 80% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.24 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 3H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.40 – 6.33 (m, 2H), 4.21 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 1H), 2.86 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.15 (m, 2H), 2.00 (ddt, J = 14.2, 11.5, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 1.95 – 1.81 (m, 3H), 1.78 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.60 (dtd, J = 14.2, 6.1, 5.5, 3.0 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.93, 141.65, 128.70, 128.52, 127.55, 126.46, 123.45, 122.55, 116.63, 116.43, 56.41, 54.83, 50.59, 37.98, 37.73, 33.73, 15.53, 12.60.



3da, 57%

The general procedure was applied to 4-bromoaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (26 mg, 57% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.7, 3.4 Hz, 3H), 6.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.34 – 6.28 (m, 2H), 4.22 (s, 1H), 4.02 (s, 1H), 2.86 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.15 (m, 2H), 2.04 – 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.81 (m, 3H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.63 – 1.55 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.31, 142.07, 131.57, 130.39, 129.33, 128.90, 117.04, 116.86, 110.62, 109.69, 56.30, 54.76, 50.61, 38.03, 37.74, 33.74, 15.54, 12.59.



3ea, 59%

The general procedure was applied to 4-iodoaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), $Cu(CF_3COO)_2$ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-

Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (32 mg, 59% yield).¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ = 7.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.24 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (q, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (dt, J = 19.7, 8.9 Hz, 4H), 1.83 (t, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (q, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (q, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (q, J = 8.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.67, 143.69, 136.54, 135.20, 133.96, 128.71, 117.51, 116.86, 78.01, 76.98, 54.74, 53.83, 50.83, 37.96, 36.14, 32.68, 15.45, 12.03.





The general procedure was applied to 4-(trifluoromethoxy)aniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/20) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (15 mg, 33% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.13 (dd, J = 2.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.34 (m, 2H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 2.92 – 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.31 – 2.17 (m, 2H), 2.06 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.96 – 1.82 (m, 3H), 1.79 – 1.70

(m, 1H), 1.67 – 1.57 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.02, 141.85, 141.38, 140.93, 127.83, 121.85, 120.79, 119.83, 115.94, 115.71, 56.52, 54.86, 50.60, 37.85, 37.71, 33.69, 15.46, 12.59.



3ga, 40%

The general procedure was applied to methyl 4-aminobenzoate (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (16 mg, 40% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 7.63 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 14.9, 8.6 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 2.79 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (q, J = 10.6, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.12 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.80 (m, 4H), 1.62 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (q, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (p, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ = 166.66, 166.64, 150.54, 148.54, 131.50, 130.60, 129.32, 123.69, 117.55, 116.56, 114.24, 113.52, 54.81, 53.92, 51.61, 51.29, 39.05, 36.68, 33.44, 15.90, 12.29.



The general procedure was applied to 1-(4-aminophenyl)ethan-1-one (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (11 mg, 29% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 7.63 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (q, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 6H), 2.10 – 1.81 (m, 6H), 1.69 – 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.37 – 1.25 (m, 1H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ = 195.53, 195.41, 150.61, 148.67, 130.06, 129.32, 128.30, 126.50, 125.47, 123.64, 113.84, 113.34, 54.86, 53.97, 51.22, 39.07, 36.64, 33.44, 26.24, 15.96, 12.32.



3ia, 96%

The general procedure was applied to *p*-toluidine (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a red liquid (31 mg, 96% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, cdcl3) δ = 7.20 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94 – 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 2.97 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 – 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.22 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 6H), 2.17 (dd, J = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.89 (m, 4H), 1.84 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (tt, J = 9.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.69 – 1.58 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.54, 140.58, 129.38, 128.16, 128.07, 127.16, 126.97, 116.02, 115.45, 56.95, 54.89, 49.89, 37.53, 37.44, 33.76, 20.75, 20.42, 15.49, 12.73.



The general procedure was applied to 4-methoxyaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (34 mg, 97% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.01 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H),

6.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 6H), 2.87 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (t, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (dd, J = 10.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (dd, J = 11.7, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (ddd, J = 17.3, 8.3, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 1.71 (ddd, J = 15.2, 11.4, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 1.64 – 1.50 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 153.89, 152.72, 139.75, 137.05, 129.14, 118.04, 116.48, 114.35, 114.06, 111.52, 57.76, 55.61, 55.55, 54.98, 49.63, 37.48, 37.20, 33.60, 15.35, 12.72.





The general procedure was applied to 3-fluoroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a white solid (10 mg, 31% yield).¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.19$ (dd, J = 8.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (td, J = 8.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (td, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.35 – 6.29 (m, 2H), 6.22 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dt, J = 12.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (s, 1H), 4.08 (s, 1H), 2.93 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.33 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.04 (ddt, J = 13.0, 8.7, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.98 – 1.88 (m, 4H), 1.73 (dtd, J = 11.8, 9.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.63 – 1.57 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 163.32$, 161.71, 147.31, 144.42, 129.77, 128.61, 122.03, 111.02, 105.88, 103.97, 101.59,

101.43,56.05, 54.75, 50.82, 38.16, 37.84, 33.91, 15.38, 12.58.



3la, 63%

The general procedure was applied to 3-chloroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a white solid (23 mg, 63% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.94 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.59 (m, 3H), 6.40 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 1H), 4.07 (s, 1H), 2.89 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.16 (ddd, J = 11.5, 10.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 1.89 (m, 5H), 1.76 (ddt, J = 16.2, 9.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.67 – 1.58 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.53, 144.14, 134.43, 132.92, 129.78, 128.11, 125.05, 118.92, 117.53, 114.88, 114.84, 113.18,55.94, 54.90, 50.92, 38.07, 37.70, 33.80, 15.52, 12.62.



3ma, 91%

The general procedure was applied to 3-bromoaniline (0.2 mmol),

cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a white solid (41 mg, 91% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.56 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.(dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 1H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 2.88 (t, J = 8.530 Hz, 1H), 2.29 – 2.14 (m, 2H), 2.06 – 1.89 (m, 5H), 1.77 (ddt, J = 11.6, 9.2, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (dtd, J = 11.8, 8.4, 2.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.63, 144.42, 132.23, 130.08, 128.34, 125.52, 122.70, 121.79, 121.05, 120.43, 117.78, 115.72, 113.49, 55.96, 54.92, 50.93, 38.07, 37.64, 33.78, 15.55, 12.63.





The general procedure was applied to 3-iodoaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a white solid (36 mg, 66% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.03 – 6.91 (m, 4H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.73 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (s, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 1H), 2.87

(t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.11 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 1H), 2.03 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.98 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.89 (dd, J = 10.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (ddt, J = 18.2, 9.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (dt, J = 10.4, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.55, 144.56, 130.26, 128.49, 127.78, 126.49, 126.28, 123.77, 123.73, 114.03, 94.73, 92.81, 55.96, 54.88, 50.98, 38.09, 37.62, 33.79, 15.59, 12.66.





The general procedure was applied to 3-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a colorless solid (25 mg, 58% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.87 (m, 3H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.52 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 1H), 4.25 (s, 1H), 2.94 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.34 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.13 – 2.02 (m, 2H), 2.00 – 1.91 (m, 3H), 1.78 (tdd, J = 14.3, 10.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (dtd, J = 17.5, 8.9, 3.1 Hz, 2H).13C NMR (101 MHz, cdcl3) δ 145.40, 143.31, 130.93, 129.72, 129.56, 129.23, 127.35, 125.56, 122.85, 117.66, 115.14, 114.06, 111.88, 111.37, 55.97, 54.76, 51.34, 38.18, 37.70, 33.85, 15.57,

12.53.



3pa, 70%

The general procedure was applied to 3-methoxyaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (25 mg, 70% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.07 (ddd, J = 8.2, 3.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dq, J = 10.0, 3.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (ddd, J = 6.1, 3.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.11 – 6.06 (m, 1H), 6.05 – 6.01 (m, 1H), 6.01 – 5.95 (m, 1H), 5.90 (dd, J = 4.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, J = 84.4 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (dd, J = 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 3.52 – 3.45 (m, 3H), 2.85 (s, 1H), 2.20 (td, J = 10.5, 9.9, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.08 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.93 – 1.69 (m, 5H), 1.62 – 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.51 – 1.42 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 160.24, 159.22, 147.28, 143.95, 129.45, 128.41, 119.75, 108.43, 105.05, 103.04, 101.10, 100.03, 56.24, 55.09, 54.88, 54.67, 50.52, 38.15, 37.72, 33.98, 15.31, 12.64.



3qa, 90%

The general procedure was applied to *m*-toluidine (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (29 mg, 90% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.22 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.53 – 6.46 (m, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.31 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.00 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, J = 19.8, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.20 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.86 (m, 5H), 1.77 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.64 (qd, J = 9.1, 8.6, 3.0 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.85, 142.83, 138.45, 137.06, 128.67, 126.82, 125.09, 120.05, 118.43, 116.34, 115.85, 112.34, 56.37, 54.85, 50.30, 37.78, 37.45, 33.87, 21.60, 21.23, 15.48, 12.74.



3ra, 29%

The general procedure was applied to 3-ethylaniline (0.2 mmol),

cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow liquid (10 mg, 29% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.28 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (d, J = 88.6 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (dd, J = 20.0, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.18 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.96 (m, 3H), 1.92 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.58 (m, 3H), 1.32 (s, 1H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.97, 144.77, 143.50, 142.82, 128.67, 127.14, 124.99, 118.82, 117.27, 115.24, 114.52, 112.83, 56.48, 54.66, 50.38, 37.93, 37.42, 34.00, 28.93, 28.58, 15.39, 15.37, 15.27, 12.71.



3sa, 20%

The general procedure was applied to 2-methoxyaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/40) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (7 mg, 20% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) $\delta = 6.99$ (dd, J = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.72 – 6.57 (m, 4H), 6.33 – 6.25 (m, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.74 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 3.90 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 2.97 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (ddd, J = 11.3, 10.0, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (ddd, J = 11.4, 9.7, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 1.94 (m, 4H), 1.84 (q, J = 10.9, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.75 – 1.58 (m, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 147.33$, 146.61, 135.53, 132.90, 127.51, 120.60, 118.98, 117.32, 116.34, 113.26, 109.31, 107.56, 56.00, 55.53, 55.47, 54.11, 51.07, 38.59, 37.59, 33.82, 15.43, 12.64.



3ta, 60%

The general procedure was applied to 3,4-dimethylaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow liquid (22 mg, 60% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 2.98 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.01 (ddd, J = 8.8, 6.4, 3.9 Hz, 2H), 1.95 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.64 – 1.56 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ = 143.99, 140.73, 136.82, 135.60, 129.87, 127.72, 126.95, 125.85, 125.68, 117.86, 116.66, 113.18, 56.71, 54.80, 49.58, 37.48, 37.24, 33.81, 20.01, 19.62, 19.02, 18.70, 15.36, 12.76.



3ua, 69%

The general procedure was applied to 3,4-difluoroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (25 mg, 69% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) $\delta = 7.06$ (dd, J = 11.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 - 6.78 (m, 1H), 6.43 (dd, J = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H, 6.22 - 6.08 (m, 2H), 4.13 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 2.82(t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.22 - 2.11 (m, 2H), 2.07 - 1.91 (m, 3H), 1.88 - 1.82(m, 2H), 1.79 - 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.64 - 1.57 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) $\delta = 151.57, 151.44, 150.96, 150.82, 149.14, 149.01, 148.52, 148.38, 149.14, 149.01, 148.52, 148.38, 149.14, 149.01, 148.52, 148.38, 149.14$ 145.33, 145.20, 144.65, 144.52, 142.96, 142.83, 142.29, 142.26, 142.24, 142.18, 142.16, 139.71, 139.69, 139.63, 139.61, 122.14, 122.10, 122.07, 117.19, 117.17, 117.01, 116.99, 115.09, 115.07, 114.91, 114.89, 110.81, 110.78, 110.76, 110.73, 104.13, 103.92, 103.68, 103.48, 56.35, 54.94, 50.58, 37.87, 33.64, 29.69, 15.31, 12.52.





The general procedure was applied to 3-chloro-4-methoxyaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow liquid (13mg, 31% yield).¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.78 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.81 (dt, J = 12.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.73 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.46 (m, 3H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 148.40, 147.99, 140.15, 137.60, 126.92, 118.45, 117.10, 115.18, 113.35, 111.09, 57.25, 56.82, 56.71, 55.04, 50.36, 37.82, 37.47, 33.51, 15.35, 12.69.



The general procedure was applied to 3-chloro-4-ethylaniline (0.2 mmol),

cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a red liquid (13mg, 32% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, J = 70.7 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (p, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 2.28 (q, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (td, J = 11.1, 10.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.04 – 1.85 (m, 5H), 1.74 (ddd, J = 14.1, 9.2, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.67 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.13 (dt, J = 19.2, 7.5 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.60, 141.99, 133.72, 132.30, 131.77, 130.53, 129.48, 127.65, 126.19, 116.09, 115.60, 114.26, 56.45, 54.95, 50.46, 37.71, 37.59, 33.69, 26.04, 25.73, 15.44, 14.65, 14.38, 12.68.



3xa, 46%

The general procedure was applied to 3-chloro-4-methylaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (18mg, 46% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.11$ (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 2.4 Hz,

1H), 6.26 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 2.86 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 8H), 2.04 – 1.85 (m, 5H), 1.74 (ddt, J = 14.0, 9.3, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.58, 142.01, 134.28, 132.88, 130.87, 128.76, 125.96, 125.82, 124.66, 115.77, 115.40, 113.93, 56.26, 54.99, 50.47, 37.79, 37.65, 33.70, 19.17, 18.84, 15.47, 12.65.



3ya, 39%

The general procedure was applied to 3,5-difluoroaniline (0.2 mmol), cyclobutanone (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/60) to afford the title compound as a white solid (12 mg, 39% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 6.14 - 5.99$ (m, 3H), 5.96 - 5.82 (m, 2H), 4.53 (s, 1H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 2.97 - 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.43 - 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.08 (td, J = 7.9, 3.8 Hz, 3H), 1.99 - 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.74 - 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.52 - 1.44 (m, 1H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 164.85$, 164.69, 164.08, 163.99, 163.91, 163.84, 162.43, 162.28, 161.64, 161.52, 161.48, 161.37, 147.80, 147.67, 147.54, 145.62, 145.49, 145.39, 105.80, 105.68, 105.65, 97.27, 97.18, 97.06, 96.98, 96.15, 96.12, 95.91, 95.88, 93.55, 93.29, 93.03, 92.59, 92.33, 92.07, 53.93,

53.59, 50.26, 38.93, 35.28, 34.78, 16.44, 12.29.



3ab, 76%

The general procedure was applied to aniline (0.2 mmol), oxetan-3-one (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/5) to afford the title compound as a white solid (22mg, 76% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 7.00 (ddd, J = 19.9, 8.2, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 6.94 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.01 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (dd, J = 16.1, 5.9 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ = 145.94, 143.71, 143.66, 129.19, 128.33, 125.41, 124.37, 118.88, 117.16, 116.35, 116.32, 114.24, 92.78, 82.16, 81.21, 78.21, 56.80, 55.63.



3ac, 78%

The general procedure was applied to aniline (0.2 mmol), thietan-3-one (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (25mg, 78% yield).¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.31 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.8, 7.4 Hz, 3H), 6.80 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.72 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 11.7, 2.2 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.63, 141.16, 129.48, 128.95, 127.96, 126.23, 120.77, 119.15, 116.74, 115.55, 61.02, 59.37, 56.41, 40.56, 39.12, 37.71.



3ad, 37%

The general procedure was applied to aniline (0.2 mmol), methyl 3oxocyclobutane-1-carboxylate (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (15mg, 37% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.40 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.02 (m, 3H), 6.79 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, J = 14.6, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.18 – 3.06 (m, 2H), 2.84 (dt, J = 9.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.69 – 2.56 (m, 2H), 2.35 (dd, J = 12.1, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.14 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 175.94, 175.30, 145.41, 142.39, 128.88, 128.01, 127.71, 126.78, 120.02, 118.35, 116.26, 115.85, 56.53, 54.12, 52.91, 52.11, 51.90, 40.03, 39.80, 35.69, 32.58, 30.56.



The general procedure was applied to aniline (0.2 mmol), 3-oxocyclobutyl propionate (0.4 mmol), Cu(CF₃COO)₂ (11.58 mg, 0.04 mmol), N-Hexane (2 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina (EtOAc/PE = 1/10) to afford the title compound as a white solid (17mg, 40% yield).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.37$ (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.01 (m, 3H), 6.76 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.65 (m, 2H), 6.52 – 6.45 (m, 2H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 1H), 4.21 – 4.09 (m, 4H), 3.07 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.87 – 2.79 (m, 1H), 2.75 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J = 11.8, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (ddd, J = 12.3, 8.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (dd, J = 11.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 2.05 (dd, J = 12.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (dd, J = 15.5, 6.9 Hz, 7H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 176.35, 175.56, 145.46, 142.17, 128.93, 127.83, 126.96, 126.93, 119.69$

118.24, 116.10, 115.70, 60.84, 60.79, 55.55, 54.02, 51.48, 40.64, 40.46, 36.12, 32.81, 29.65, 14.23, 14.19.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra



Figure S1. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3aa



Figure S2. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ba



Figure S3. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ca



Figure S4. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3da



Figure S5. ¹H(600 MHz, DMSO) and ¹³C (151 MHz, DMSO) NMR spectra

for compound 3ea



Figure S6. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra for compound **3fa**



Figure S7. ¹H(400 MHz, DMSO) and ¹³C (101 MHz, DMSO) NMR spectra

for compound 3ga



Figure S8. 1 H(400 MHz, DMSO) and 13 C (101 MHz, DMSO) NMR spectra

for compound 3ha



Figure S9. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ia



Figure S10. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra for compound **3ja**


Figure S11. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ka



Figure S12. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3la



Figure S13. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ma



Figure S14. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3na



Figure S15. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 30a



Figure S16. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3pa



Figure S17. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3qa



Figure S18. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ra



Figure S19. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3sa



Figure S20. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ta



Figure S21. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ua



Figure S22. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3va



Figure S23. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3wa



Figure S24. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3xa



Figure S25. 1 H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and 13 C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ya



Figure S26. ¹H(400 MHz, DMSO) and ¹³C (101 MHz, DMSO) NMR spectra for compound **3ab**



Figure S27. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ac



Figure S28. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ad



Figure S28. ¹H(400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C (101 MHz, CDCl₃) NMR spectra

for compound 3ad