Supporting Information For:

A Novel Iodide-catalyzed Reduction of Nitroarenes and Aryl Ketones with H₃PO₂ or H₃PO₃: its Application to the Synthesis of a Potential Anticancer Agent

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General. All reactions were carried out under a positive pressure of nitrogen. Thin Layer chromatography was performed on Merck precoated silica gel F-254 plates.

All isolated products were characterized against to their purchased authentic samples where available by GC-MS or LC-MS and NMR (Bruker, 400 Hz). All of the authentic samples were purchased from Aldrich or Acros.

General procedure A for the reduction of nitroarenes in the presence of halogen substituents. A mixture of one equivalent of nitro substrate, two equivalents of sodium iodide and four equivalents of phosphorous acid or hypophosphorous acid in hydrobromic acid (48% w/w) (1.5 mL/mmole of substrate) and acetic acid (glacial) (1.5 mL/mmole of substrate) is heated to gentle reflux at 115 °C until reaction is completed. The reaction mixture is cooled to ambient temperature and neutralized with sodium hydroxide to pH 7. The product is then extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ and brine. The solvent is then removed *in vacuo* to give the product.

General procedure B for the reduction of nitro arylketones. A mixture of substrate (10 mmol) and sodium iodide (1 to 20 mmol), phosphorous acid (H_3PO_3 , 40 mmol) in hydrobromic acid (48%, 10 to 50 ml) and water (2.5 to 10 ml, hydrobromic acid : water = 4:1) is heated to 110 °C and stirred for 4 hours. After cooled to 60 °C, hypophosphorous acid (H_3PO_2 , 20 mmol) is added. The reaction mixture is heated to 110 °C and stirred for another 6 hours. The reaction is cooled to ambient temperature. The reaction mixture is slowly transferred into ammonium hydroxide solution. The solid is filtrated, washed with water.

3-bromo-8-chloro-7/9-nitro-6,11-dihydro-5H-benzo[5,6]-cyclohepta[1,2-b]pyridin-11-one (Compounds **1a** and **1b**). To a solution of 3-bromo -8-chloro -6,11-dihydro-5H-benzo[5,6]-cyclohepta [1,2-b]pyridin-11-one hydrogen bromide (**3**) (84 g, 260 mmol) in concentrated sulfuric acid (98%, 355.3 g, 411 mmol) was added slowly concentrated nitric acid (70%, 25.2 ml, 603 mmol) while maintaining the temperature at about 35 °C.

After 2 hours at 35 °C, the reaction mixture is cooled to 25 °C and slowly added into water while maintaining the temperature below 40 °C. The resulting slurry is neutralized with ammonium hydroxide (25 Baume) and filtered at a temperature between 10 and 20 °C. The wet cake is washed with water and dried in a draft oven at a temperature between 50 and 60 °C to give 94 g solid (98% yield) as a mixture of **1a** and **1b** (70:30). A small analytical sample was purified by silica gel column, eluting with EtOAc and hexanes to give compound **1a** and **1b**. **1a** (9-nitro isomer): Mp: 173-175 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.75 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 3.32-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.28-3.19 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 189.4, 151.2, 150.3, 146.4, 140.1, 138.4, 136.1, 133.3, 131.2, 128.9, 124.3, 34.0, 31.9. **1b** (7-nitro isomer): Mp: 201-203 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24-3.21 (m, 2H), 3.16-3.13 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 191.2, 151.3, 150.3, 140.1, 137.7, 137.6, 133.4, 132.9, 129.4, 129.2, 124.2, 31.3, 28.4. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₈BrClN₂O₃ (**1a** + **1b**): C, 45.91; H, 2.20; N, 7.65; Found: C, 45.55; H, 2.33; N, 7.59.

7/9-Amino-8-chloro-3-bromo-5,6-dihydro-11H-benzo[5,6]cycloheptal[1,2-b]pyridine (2a and 2b): To a 1L three-neck flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer, a thermometer and a condenser were added, under nitrogen, 50.0 g (0.14 mol) compound 1, 2.0 g of sodium iodide (13.3 mmol), 45.0 g of phosphorous acid (H₃PO₃, 0.55 mol). To the mixture were added 250 ml of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 50 ml of water. resulting suspension was heated to 107-110 °C and stirred at this temperature for 4 hrs. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 60 °C and 40 ml (0.30 mol) of hypophosphorous acid (H₃PO₂, 50% w/w) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to 100 to 110 °C and stirred at this temperature for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to 20 °C and was slowly transferred into a solution of 200 ml of ammonium hydroxide and 100 ml of methanol while maintaining the temperature under 30 °C. The pH was adjusted to 5.0 with ammonium hydroxide and the suspension was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. The solid was filtered and washed with 50 ml of water. Drying the solid in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 20 hours gave 46.9 g of compound 2 as a mixture of a pair of isomers in about 70:30 (9-:7-isomer) ratio with 94% HPLC purity and 99% yield. 2a (9-Amino isomer): Mp: 191-192 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-D₆) δ 8.32 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J =2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 5.14 (br. s, 2H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.03-3.00 (m, 2H), 2.97-2.90 (m, 2H). 13 C NMR (DMSO-D₆) δ 156.1, 146.3, 142.6, 139.7, 136.5, 136.4, 129.2, 127.2, 117.9, 115.8, 115.2, 42.0, 30.9, 29.2. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂BrClN₂: C, 51.96; H, 3.74; N, 8.65; Found: C, 51.96; H, 3.76; N, 8.44. **2b** (7-Amino isomer): Mp: 188-189 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 8.33 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (br. s, 2H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 3.12-3.11(m, 2H), 2.88-2.85 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-D₆) δ 157.4, 146.9, 142.5, 139.0, 137.0, 135.9, 126.6, 123.3, 118.9, 118.4, 116.7, 42.4, 29.0, 26.3. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂BrClN₂: C, 51.96; H, 3.74; N, 8.65; Found: C, 51.85; H, 3.70; N, 8.42.

Preparation of 4a and 4b: To a suspension of 30.0 g of compound **2** (as a mixture of **2a** and **2b**) from above in 90 mL of methanol and 30 mL of acetic acid was added 15 mL of a solution of hydrobromic acid (48%) while maintaining the temperature between 10 to 20 °C. 4.5 mL of bromine (87.1 mmol) was added to the solution portion wise at a

temperature between 15 to 20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1h and was then poured into a solution of 6.0 g of sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate in 150 mL of water and 60 mL of ammonium hydroxide at a temperature between 10 and 20 °C. The resulting suspension was heated to 40 °C and the mixture was stirred for 1h while the temperature was allowed to warm to 20 °C. The precipitate was filtered, washed with 30 mL of water and dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C to give 33.3 g of compound IV (as a mixture of isomers 4a and 4b) with a HPLC purity of 94% and 89.0% yield). Major product (9-amino-isomer, 4a): Mp: 183-185 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.39 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.47 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (s, 1 H), 4.50 (s, 2 H), 4.49 (bs, 2 H), 3.10-3.05 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 153.8, 147.6, 140.9, 140.0, 137.3, 135.3, 130.4, 127.8, 118.8, 117.2, 111.6, 41.7, 32.4, 30.9. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁Br₂ClN₂: C, 41.78; H, 2.75; N, 6.96; Found: C, 41.83; H, 2.65; N, 6.88. Minor product (7-aminoisomer, **4b**): Mp: 187-189 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.40 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.51 (d, J =1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (s, 1 H), 4.53 (s, 2 H), 4.07 (bs, 2 H), 3.14-3.10 (m, 2 H). 3.05-3.01 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 154.9, 147.8, 139.8, 139.7, 135.9, 135.1, 130.5, 125.3, 119.1, 118.8, 112.1, 40.8, 30.0, 26.4. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁Br₂ClN₂: C, 41.78; H, 2.75; N, 6.96; Found: C, 41.91; H, 2.64; N, 6.84.

One-pot procedure to compound 4a and 4b from 1: A mixture of compound 1 (as a mixture of isomers 1a and 1b) (10g, 27.2 mmol), phosphorous acid, H₃PO₃, (9 g, 109.8 mmol), sodium iodide (0.4g, 2.7mmol), hydrobromic acid (48%) (50 mL) and water (10 mL) was heated with agitation at 105 °C for 6 hours and cooled to about 100 °C. Hypophosphorous acid, H₃PO₂, (50%) (8 mL, 60.6 mmol) was added to the solution, which was then heated at 110 °C for about 6hrs until the reaction is judged complete by HPLC. The solution was cooled to about 90 °C and acetic acid (20 mL) and ethanol (50 mL) were added and the solution continued to cool to 15 °C. Bromine (3.3 mL, 63.9 mmol) was dropped into the mixture at a temperature between 15 to 20 °C and the mixture was stirred for another one hour. Ammonium hydroxide (25%) (60 mL) was slowly added to the mixture at a rate to keep the temperature below 50 °C. After the ammonium hydroxide was added, the mixture was held at 50 °C for one hour. After cooled to 25 °C, the mixture was filtered. The solid was collected and slurried with water (150 mL) at 50 °C and collected again by filtration. The yield of **IV** is 10.3 g (93% yield). The analytical data is identical to the sample prepared from the two-pot procedure described above.

Preparation of 5 from 4. To a vigorously stirred suspension of 100.0 g mixture (94.0% purity, 0.231 mol) of compound **4** as a mixture of isomers **4a** and **4b** from above in 200 mL of water at between 5 and 10 °C under sweeping nitrogen was added 300 mL of 98% sulfuric acid solution while allowing the internal temperature to rise to between 60 and 65 °C. The resulting brown thick solution was cooled to between 5 and 10 °C. Hypophosphorous acid (400 mL, 50% H₃PO₂ in water, 3.85 mol) was added followed by a solution of sodium nitrite (20.3 g, 0.286 mol) in 100 mL of water while maintaining the temperature between 10 and 20 °C. After addition of sodium nitrite, 1.25 mL of Antifoam B silicone emulsion (J. T. Baker) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to between 20 and 25 °C, held for 2 hours, further heated to between 40 and 45 °C over a period of 2 hours and held for 4 hours. Upon the reaction completion, the

resulting slurry was cooled to between -5 and 5 °C, held for 6 hrs and filtered. The cake was washed with 200 mL of 30% aqueous sulfuric acid solution and dissolved into 1.5 L of a deoxygenated methanol solution containing 1% water, 1% sulfuric acid and 1.3% hypophosphorous acid between 50 and 60 °C. To the resulting brown solution was added 10 g of activated carbon (Nuchar SN). After 30 minutes, the mixture was filtered through a half-inch pad of Celite between 50 and 60 °C. The filtrate was heated to between 50 and 60 °C and slowly neutralized with 300 mL of a 2:1 solution of triethylamine (1.42 mole) and methanol until the solution pH value higher than 9 (on a water wet pH paper). The resulting slurry was cooled to between 0 and 5 °C in a period of 1 hour, held for 2 hours and filtered. The cake was washed with methanol, dried at 60 and 65 °C under vacuum to give 73 g of compound 5, 8-chloro-3,10-dibromo-5,6-dihydro-11Hbenzo[5,6]cycloheptal[1,2-b]pyridine, as a light yellow solid in 82% yield. Mp 163-164 ° C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.40 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 3.22-3.17 (m, 2H), 3.13-3.08 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 153.5, 147.8, 143.1, 140.1, 136.5, 134.9, 133.1, 130.8, 127.9, 124.6, 118.9, 40.7, 31.8, 31.7. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀Br₂ClN: C, 43.38; H, 2.58; N, 3.62; Br, 41.31; Cl, 9.17; Found: C, 43.33; H, 2.66; N, 3.69; Br, 41.06; Cl, 9.11.

2-Chloroaniline (9)

General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. A mixture of 0.957 g (6.1 mmol) of 2-chloroaniline, 1.801 g (12.0 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 2.6 mL (12.0 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 7 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 7.0 mL of acetic acid (glacial) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hrs. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 0.697 g product as a brown oil (90% yield). 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.27 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (td, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (br. s, 2H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 143.0, 129.5, 127.7, 119.2, 116.0. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 127 (M⁺, 100), 95 (M⁺-Cl, 29).

Aniline (11) from 1-bromo-2-nitrobenzene

A mixture of 1.21 g (6.0 mmol) of 1-bromo-2-nitrobenzene, 0.089 g (0.6 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 2.4 mL (22.0 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 9.0 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 2 hrs. After workup, the solvent was removed to give 0.535 g the product as a dark red/brown oil. (96% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.19 (dt, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (td, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (brs, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 146.4, 129.3, 118.6, 115.2. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 93 (M⁺, 100).

Aniline (11) from 1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene

General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. A mixture of 3.06 g (15.1 mmol) of 1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene, 4.50 g (30.0 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 6.6 mL (60.3 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 23 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 24 mL of acetic acid (glacial) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 10 hours. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 1.16 g of product as a brown oil. (84% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the product were identical to that of both aniline produced above as well as the purchased standard.

Aniline (11) from 1-iodo-2-nitrobenzene

General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. A mixture of 1.51 g (6.0 mmol) of 1-iodo-2-nitrobenzene, 1.807g (12.1 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 2.6 mL (24.0 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 7.0 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 7.0 mL of acetic acid (glacial) was heated to gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hours. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 0.52 g of product as a brown oil. (92% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the product were identical to that of both aniline produced from 1-bromo-2-nitrobenzene as well as the purchased standard.

2,6-Diamino-toluene (15)

General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. A mixture of 3.32 g (18.2 mmol) of 2,6-dinitrotoulene, 5.41 g (36.1 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 7.8 mL (71.3 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 27 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 27 mL of acetic acid (glacial) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hours. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 1.86 g of product as a amber oil. (84% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 6.84 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (bs, 4H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 145.3, 126.9, 107.4, 106.8, 10.3. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 122 (M⁺, 100).

1-Amino-naphthalene (17)

General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. A mixture of 3.34 g (19.3 mmol) 1-nitronaphthalene, 5.74 g (38.3 mmol) of sodium iodide, and 8.4 mL (76.2 mmol) of hypophosphorous acid (50% w/w) in 28 mL of hydrobromic acid (48%) and 28 mL of acetic acid (glacial) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hours. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 2.70 g of product as a dark purple solid. (98% yield). 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.84-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.80 (dd, J = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (bs, 2H). 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 142.2, 134.6, 128.7, 126.5, 125.9, 125.0, 123.8, 120.9, 119.1, 109.8. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 143 (M⁺, 100).

2-Amino-6-bromo toluene (**19**): General procedure A was followed in the synthesis of this compound. To a mixture of 2-Bromo-6-nitrotoluene (**18**, 4.0 g, 18.5 mmol), sodium iodide (5.5 g, 36.7 mmol) and phosphorous acid (6.07 g, 74.0 mmol), were added 48% of hydrobromic acid (20 ml) and acetic acid (20 ml). The slurry was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hours. The reaction was cooled to 20 °C and 50 ml of Ethyl Acetate was added. Adjust pH of the mixture to 4 - 5 by adding 45% potassium hydroxide solution and potassium phosphate tribasic solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with 50 ml Ethyl Acetate. The combined organic later was dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give 3.3 g of **19** as a dark oil. (96% yield). All Analytical data are identical to that of the authentic sample. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) (Conform to known compound) δ 6.79 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (bs, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H).

2-Amino-4-bromo benzoic acid (21): To a mixture of 4-Bromo-2-nitrobenzoic acid (**20**, 4.0 g, 16.3 mmol), sodium iodide (4.87 g, 32.5 mmol) and phosphorous acid (5.33 g, 65 mmol), were added 48% of hydrobromic acid (20 ml) and acetic acid (20 ml). The slurry was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C for 8 hrs. The reaction mixture was cooled to 20 °C. The pH of the mixture was adjusted to 4 - 5 by using 45% potassium hydroxide solution and potassium phosphate tribasic solution. After cooling the mixture to 10 °C, the solid was filtered to obtain 2.9 g of **21**. (83% yield). All Analytical data are identical to that of the authentic sample. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) (Conform to known compound) δ 7.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 2H).

2-Benzylpridine (**23**): A mixture of 2-benzoylpyridine (**22**, 2.0 g, 11 mmol), sodium iodide (3.3 g, 22 mmol) in hydrobromic acid (12 ml) and acetic acid (8 ml) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C. Hypophosphorous acid (3.4 ml, 50%, 33 mmol) was slowly added to the reaction through syringe pump in 30 minutes. The reaction was heated for a total of 5 hours. After workup, the solvent was removed under vacuum to give 1.66 g of product as a bright red liquid. (90% yield). The NMR of the crude product was identical to that of the authentic sample. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.54 (dd, J = 5.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, J = 7.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.8, 1.1Hz, 2H), 4.16 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 161.1, 149.5, 139.6, 136.6, 129.2, 128.7, 126.5, 123.2, 121.3, 44.8. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 169 (M⁺, 73) 168 (M⁺-H, 100), 91 (M⁺-C₅N₁H₄, 15).

4-Benzylpridine (**25**): A mixture of 4-benzoylpyridine (**24**, 2.0 g, 11 mmol), sodium iodide (3.3 g, 22 mmol) in hydrobromic acid (12 ml) and acetic acid (8 ml) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C. Hypophosphorous acid (3.4 ml, 50%, 33 mmol) was slowly added to the reaction through a syringe pump in 30 minutes. The reaction was monitored by TLC and completed in 5 hours. Workup and removal of solvent afforded 1.7 g of dark red oil. (92% yield). The NMR of the crude reaction product was identical to that of the authentic sample. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.53(d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (td, J = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (td, J = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 149.9, 138.9, 129.1, 128.8, 126.8, 124.3, 41.3. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 169 (M⁺, 100) 168 (M⁺-H, 94), 91 (M⁺-C₅N₁H₄, 36).

4-Benzoyl aniline (27): A mixture of 4-benzoylnitrobenzene (26, 5.0 g, 22 mmol), sodium iodide (6.6 g, 44 mmol) in hydrobromic acid (25 ml, 48%) and acetic acid (25 ml) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C. The reaction mixture became a clear solution. Hypophosphorous acid (50% aqueous solution, 11.4 ml) was slowly added to the reaction over a period of 2 hour through a syringe pump. The reaction was monitored by TLC and completed in one hour. There was no further reaction after addition of hypophosphorous acid. HPLC showed about 99% solution yield of nitro reduced product. The reaction mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and quenched with a solution of NaOH (80 ml, 25%). Extra 50 ml of water was added and the suspension mixture was filtered, followed by water washes. After drying, 4.1 g of product (27) was obtained. (95% yield)

as a solid. The NMR showed a clean product and identical to its authentic sample. 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.72 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 4H), 7.52 (tt, J = 6.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, J = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (td, J = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.12(bs, 2H). 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 195.4, 151.0, 139.0, 133.1, 131.5, 129.7, 128.2, 127.6, 113.8. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 197 (M⁺, 80) 120 (M⁺-C₆H₅, 100), 92 (M⁺-C₅H₅CO, 23) 77 (C₆H₅, 19).

3-Aminoacetophenone (29): A mixture of 3-nitroacetophenone (28, 5.0 g, 30 mmol), sodium iodide (9.0 g, 60 mmol) in hydrobromic acid (34 ml, 48%) was heated to a gentle reflux at 115 °C. Hypophosphorous acid (50% aqueous solution, 6.2 ml, 60 mmol) was slowly added into the reaction in 1 hour through a syringe pump. Reaction was monitored by TLC and nitro reduction was completed in one hour. There was no further reaction after addition of hypophosphorous acid. Solution yield was ca. 85% as deterimined by HPLC. Reaction mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and slowly poured into a solution of NaOH (40 ml, 25%) and water (100 ml). Solid was filtered. The aqueous was extracted with EtOAc (3 X 100 ml). After concentration, total solid was 2.4 g. Purification by column chromatography obtained 2.0 g of product. Final crystallization with EtOAc/Hexane gave 1.54 g of product as 3-aminoacetophenone. (38% yield). The NMR the product was identical to its authentic sample. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.36 (ddd, J = 8.6, 1.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, J = 6.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (ddd, J = 7.9, 2.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (bs, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 198.5, 146.8, 138.4, 129.6, 119.8, 119.0, 114.1. GC-MS m/z (relative intensity) 135 (M⁺,100) 120 (M⁺-CH₃, 99), 92 (M⁺-COCH₃, 93).





























































