

A General and Efficient Approach to Aryl Thiols: CuI-catalyzed Coupling of Aryl Iodides with Sulfur and Subsequent Reduction

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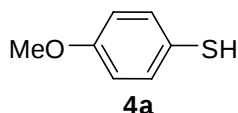
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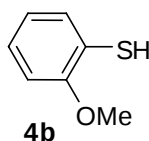
Experimental -----	S2
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Experimental

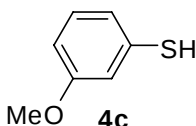
General procedure for preparation of aryl thiols: An oven-dried Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (19 mg, 0.1 mmol), aryl iodide (1 mmol), S powder (96 mg, 3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (276 mg, 2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon before DMF (2 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C until the corresponding aryl iodide was completely consumed as monitored by TLC. To this reaction mixture NaBH₄ (0.111 g, 3 mmol) was added with cooling by ice-water (for **4a-4s**). [For **4t-4v**, Ph₃P (0.78 g, 3 mmol), dioxane (3 mL), H₂O (1 mL) and concentrated HCl (0.2 mL) were added into this mixture] After the resultant reaction solution was stirred at 40 °C for 5 h, 3 N HCl (2 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic layers were treated with 20% NaOH. The aqueous layer was separated, washed with ethyl acetate, acidified with concentrated HCl, and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, and dried over Na₂SO₄. Removal of solvent in vacuo provided the desired product with satisfactory purity. Some relatively stable products were purified via column chromatography.



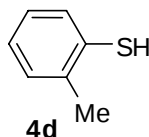
4-Methoxythiophenol 4a.¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 140 (M⁺).



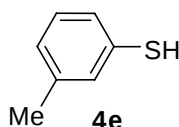
2-Methoxythiophenol 4b.² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.88 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 140 (M⁺).



3-Methoxythiophenol 4c.² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.14 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.81-6.86 (m, 2H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 140 (M⁺).

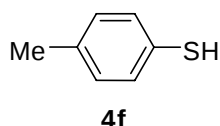


2-Methylthiophenol 4d.³ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.27 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.29 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H); EI-MS m/z 124 (M⁺).

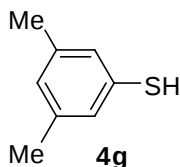


3-Methylthiophenol 4e.⁴ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.06-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, J

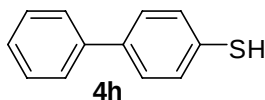
= 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); EI-MS m/z 124 (M^+).



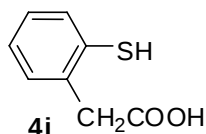
4-Methylthiophenol 4f.¹ ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.18 (d, 2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.05 (d, 2H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 3.38 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H); EI-MS m/z 124 (M^+).



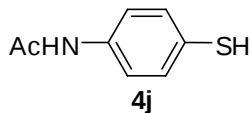
3,5-Dimethylthiophenol 4g.⁵ ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 6.90 (s, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 3.35 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 6H); EI-MS m/z 138 (M^+).



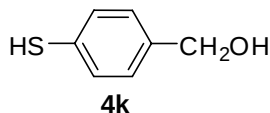
Biphenyl-4-thiol 4h.⁶ ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.55 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 3H), 3.50 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 186 (M^+).



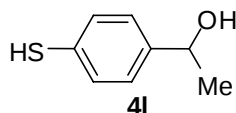
2-Mercapto-benzeneacetic acid 4i.⁷ ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.42-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.50 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 168 (M^+).



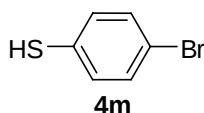
4-Acetamidothiophenol 4j.⁸ mp 157-158 °C (lit.⁸ mp 155-158 °C); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.40 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.43 (s, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 168.9, 139.9, 130.6 (2C), 129.8, 120.1 (2C), 24.4; EI-MS m/z 167 (M^+).



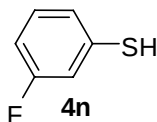
4-Mercapto-benzyl alcohol 4k.⁹ ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.28 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 1H); EI-MS m/z 140 (M^+).



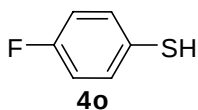
1-(4-Mercapto-phenyl)ethanol 4l. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 7.19 (m, 4H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 5.08 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.58 (m, 1H), 1.25 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.1, 129.2, 129.1 (2C), 125.8 (2C), 69.5, 24.7; EI-MS m/z 154 (M^+); EI-HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{OS}$ (M^+), 154.0452, found 154.0455.



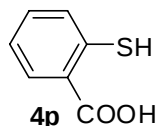
4-Bromothiophenol 4m.¹⁰ mp 70.2-70.6 °C (lit.¹⁰ mp 70-71 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.44 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 188 (M⁺), 190 (M⁺).



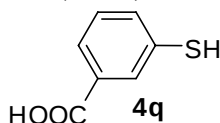
3-Fluorothiophenol 4n.¹¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.23-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.85 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 128 (M⁺).



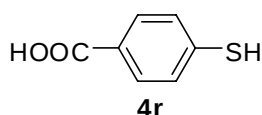
4-Fluorothiophenol 4o.¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 128 (M⁺).



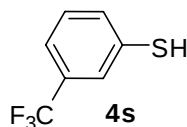
2-Mercapto-benzoic acid 4p.¹² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H); ESI-MS *m/z* 153 (M - H)⁺.



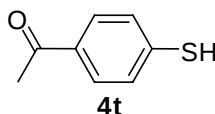
3-Mercapto-benzoic acid 4q.¹³ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 154 (M⁺).



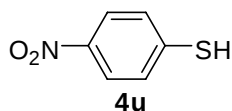
4-Mercapto-benzoic acid 4r.⁹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 154 (M⁺).



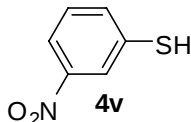
3-Trifluoromethylthiophenol 4s.¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.32 (m, 3H), 3.58 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 178 (M⁺).



1-(4-Mercapto-phenyl)ethanone 4t.⁹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H); EI-MS *m/z* 152 (M⁺).

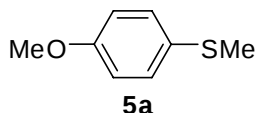


4-Nitrothiophenol 4u.¹⁴ mp 79-80 °C (lit.²⁰ mp 80 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 155 (*M*⁺).

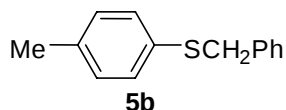


3-Nitrothiophenol 4v.¹⁵ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 1H); EI-MS *m/z* 155 (*M*⁺).

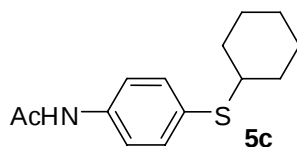
General procedure for synthesis of aryl alkyl thioethers: An oven-dried Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (19 mg, 0.1 mmol), aryl iodide (1 mmol), S powder (96 mg, 3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (276 mg, 2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon before DMF (2 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C until till aryl iodide was consumed as monitored by TLC. To this mixture NaBH₄ (0.111 g, 3 mmol) was added with cooling by ice-water. After the solution was stirred at 40 °C for 5 h, alkyl bromide was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h before 3 N HCl (2 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the organic layer was washed with H₂O and brine, and dried over Na₂SO₄. After removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by flash chromatography to get the thioether.



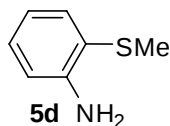
4-Methoxythioanisole 5a.¹⁶ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); EI-MS *m/z* 154 (*M*⁺).



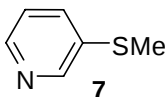
Methyl-4-[(phenylmethyl)thio]benzene 5b.¹⁷ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.27-7.19 (m, 7H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H); EI-MS *m/z* 214 (*M*⁺).



Cyclohexylsulfanyl-4-acetamidobenzene 5c. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 2.98-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.93-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.35 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 137.1, 133.5 (2C), 129.8, 120.3 (2C), 47.3, 33.3 (2C), 26.0, 25.7 (2C), 24.5; EI-MS *m/z* 249 (*M*⁺). EI-HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₉NOS (*M*⁺), 249.1187, found 249.1188.



2-Methylsulfanyl phenylamine 5d.¹⁸ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.35 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74-6.69 (m, 2 H), 4.0 (br s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); EI-MS m/z 139 (M⁺).



3-Methylsulfanyl-pyridine 7.¹⁹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H); EI-MS m/z 125 (M⁺).

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