

# Palladium-Catalyzed Nucleophilic Benzylic Substitutions of Benzylic Esters

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## Supporting Information

**General and Materials.** NMR spectra were measured with Bruker AVANCE 400 (9.4 T magnet) spectrometer. Short column chromatographies and medium-pressure liquid chromatographies (MPLC) were performed with silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh, Merck) and C.I.G. pre-packed column CPS-223L-1 (Kusano, Tokyo, Japan), respectively.

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere.  $[\text{Pd}(\eta^3\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)(\text{cod})]\text{BF}_4^1$  and benzylic methyl carbonates **3**<sup>2</sup> were prepared according to the literatures. *N,O*-Bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide (BSA), 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF), and bis(2-diphenylphosphinophenyl)ether were purchased from ACROS Organics, from TCI, and from STREM Chemicals, respectively, and were used without further purification. Other materials were purchased from commercial sources.

**General Procedure of Optimization of Reaction Conditions (Table 1).** Benzyl methyl carbonate (33 mg, 0.20 mmol), dimethyl malonate (53 mg, 0.30 mmol), tetradecane (20 mg, as an internal standard for GC analysis) were added to a solution of a palladium catalyst precursor (10  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), bisphosphine (11  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), and a base (0.30 mmol) in a solvent (1.0 ml) at room temperature. The solution was stirred at 80 °C, and the reaction was monitored by GC analysis with J&W capillary column DB-1 (0.53 mm  $\phi \times$  15 m,  $d_f$  1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

**General Procedure of Palladium-Catalyzed Benzylic Alkylation.** A benzylic ester **3** (1.0 mmol), a malonate (dimethyl malonate or **6**) (1.1 mmol), and BSA (224 mg, 1.1 mmol) were added to a solution of  $[\text{Pd}(\eta^3\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)(\text{cod})]\text{BF}_4$  (3.4 mg, 10  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), DPPF (6.1 mg, 11  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), and KOAc (7.5 mg, 75  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) in THF (1.0 ml) at room temperature. The solution was stirred at 80 °C until the benzylic ester was consumed or until the reaction stopped. The mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) or by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane) after passing through a short column on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3–3/1) to give the corresponding benzylmalonate **4** or **7**.

**Dimethyl Benzylmalonate (4a) (Scheme 1).** The general procedure was followed with benzyl methyl carbonate (**3a**) (163 mg, 0.98 mmol) and dimethyl malonate (269 mg, 2.04 mmol). The crude product was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to give **4a** (153 mg, 70%) as colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  3.26 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 7.14–7.31 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  34.7, 52.5, 53.6, 126.8, 128.5, 128.7, 137.7, 169.2.

**Dimethyl [(2-Methylphenyl)methyl]malonate (4b) (Scheme 1).**<sup>3</sup> The general procedure was followed with methyl (2-methylphenyl)methyl carbonate (**3b**) (179 mg, 1.00 mmol) and dimethyl malonate (270 mg, 2.04 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **4b** (194 mg, 82%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  2.34 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 7.07–7.17 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  19.2, 32.0, 52.0, 52.5, 126.0, 126.9, 129.1, 130.4, 135.8, 136.2, 169.3.

**Diethyl Benzylmethoxymalonate (7a) (Table 2, entry 1).**<sup>4</sup> The general procedure was followed with **3a** (165 mg, 0.99 mmol) and diethyl methylmalonate (**6a**) (260 mg, 1.49 mmol). The crude product was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to give **7a** (161 mg, 61%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS)  $\delta$  1.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.33 (s,

3H), 3.23 (s, 2H), 4.19 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 4H), 7.09–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.28 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 19.7, 41.1, 54.8, 61.3, 126.9, 128.1, 130.2, 136.2, 172.0.

**Diethyl Benzylphenylmalonate (7b) (Table 2, entry 2).** The general procedure was followed with **3a** (166 mg, 1.0 mmol) and diethyl phenylmalonate (**6b**) (260 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7b** (309 mg, 95%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.20 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 6H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 4.20 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 6.86–6.91 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.28 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.9, 42.9, 61.6, 64.2, 126.7, 127.4, 127.76, 127.79, 128.3, 130.4, 136.1, 137.0, 170.1; IR (neat)  $1736\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$ : C, 73.60; H, 6.79. Found: C, 73.46; H, 6.77.

**Diethyl (*N*-Acetylamino)benzylmalonate (7c) (Table 2, entry 3).<sup>5</sup>** The general procedure was followed with **3a** (166 mg, 1.00 mmol) and diethyl (*N*-acetylamino)malonate (**6c**) (234 mg, 1.08 mmol). The crude product was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to give **7c** (273 mg, 89%): colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.30 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 4.21–4.33 (m, 4H), 6.53 (br s, 1H), 6.99–7.03 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.29 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 23.0, 37.8, 62.6, 67.2, 127.2, 128.3, 129.9, 135.3, 167.5, 169.0.

**Dimethyl Benzylmethoxymalonate (7d) (Table 2, entry 4).<sup>6</sup>** The general procedure was followed with **3a** (166 mg, 1.00 mmol) and dimethyl methoxymalonate (**6d**) (181 mg, 1.12 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7d** (224 mg, 88%): yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  3.37 (s, 2H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 7.16–7.29 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  39.0, 52.6, 54.0, 85.8, 127.1, 128.2, 130.0, 134.5, 168.6.

**Diethyl (*N*-Acetylamino)[(2-methylphenyl)methyl]malonate (7e) (Table 2, entry 5).<sup>7</sup>** The general procedure was followed with **3b** (180 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6c** (240 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/1) to give **7e** (271 mg, 84%): colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.28 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 4.23 (dt,  $J = 10.8, 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.29 (dt,  $J = 10.8, 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.57 (br s, 1H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.03–7.16 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.9, 19.3, 23.1, 34.7, 62.6, 67.0, 125.6, 127.1, 130.4, 130.6, 133.5, 137.6, 167.9, 169.2.

**Dimethyl Methoxy[(2-methylphenyl)methyl]malonate (7f) (Table 2, entry 6).** The general procedure was followed with **3b** (181 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6d** (180 mg, 1.11 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7f** (247 mg, 92%): yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  2.33 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 7.06–7.15 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.25 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  20.0, 35.6, 52.6, 54.2, 86.0, 125.7, 127.0, 129.7, 130.3, 133.2, 137.5, 168.9; IR (neat)  $1745\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_5$ : C, 63.15; H, 6.81. Found: C, 63.24; H, 6.82.

**Diethyl [(4-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]phenylmalonate (7g) (Table 2, entry 7).<sup>8</sup>** The general procedure was followed with (4-methoxyphenyl)methyl methyl carbonate (**3c**) (196 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6b** (260 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7g** (334 mg, 94%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.21 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.20 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.29 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.9, 42.2, 55.1, 61.5, 64.4, 113.2, 127.3, 127.8, 128.0, 128.3, 131.4, 137.1, 158.4, 170.2.

**Diethyl (*N*-Acetylamino)[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]malonate (7h) (Table 2, entry 8).<sup>9</sup>** The general procedure was followed with **3c** (196 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6c** (239 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to give **7h** (338 mg, >99%): colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.30 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 6H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.21–4.33 (m, 4H), 6.53 (br s, 1H), 6.79 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.9$

Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 23.1, 37.0, 55.2, 62.6, 67.3, 113.7, 127.1, 130.8, 158.7, 167.6, 169.0.

**Dimethyl Methoxy[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]malonate (7i) (Table 2, entry 9).** The general procedure was followed with **3c** (197 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6d** (177 mg, 1.09 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7i** (265 mg, 94%): yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  3.30 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  38.4, 52.6, 54.0, 55.1, 85.9, 113.6, 126.5, 131.0, 158.7, 168.7; IR (neat) 1743  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6$ : C, 59.57; H, 6.43. Found: C, 59.49; H, 6.43.

**Diethyl [(4-Methylphenyl)methyl]phenylmalonate (7j) (Table 2, entry 10).** The general procedure was followed with methyl (4-methylphenyl)methyl carbonate (**3d**) (180 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6b** (261 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7j** (333 mg, 98%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 4.20 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.76 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.9, 21.0, 42.5, 61.5, 64.2, 127.3, 127.8, 128.3, 128.5, 130.3, 132.8, 136.3, 137.0, 170.2; IR (neat) 1736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ : C, 74.09; H, 7.11. Found: C, 74.09; H, 7.14.

**Diethyl (N-Acetylamino)[(4-methylphenyl)methyl]malonate (7k) (Table 2, entry 11).<sup>10</sup>** The general procedure was followed with **3d** (181 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6c** (239 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/1) to give **7k** (287 mg, 89%): colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.30 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 4.26 (dq,  $J$  = 10.5, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (dq,  $J$  = 10.5, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.52 (br s, 1H), 6.89 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 21.1, 23.0, 37.4, 62.6, 67.2, 129.0, 129.7, 132.0, 136.8, 167.6, 169.0.

**Diethyl Phenyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methylmalonate (7l) (Table 2, entry 12).** The general procedure was followed with methyl [4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl carbonate (**3e**) (235 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6b** (262 mg, 1.11 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7l** (308 mg, 78%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.20 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 4.20 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.39 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.8, 42.6, 61.8, 64.1, 124.2 (q,  $J$  = 272 Hz), 124.6 (q,  $J$  = 4 Hz), 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 129.0 (q,  $J$  = 33 Hz), 130.8, 136.6, 140.3, 169.9; IR (neat) 1736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4\text{F}_3$ : C, 63.95; H, 5.37. Found: C, 64.02; H, 5.39.

**Dimethyl Methoxy[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methylmalonate (7m) (Table 2, entry 13).** The general procedure was followed with **3e** (235 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6d** (177 mg, 1.09 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7i** (266 mg, 83%): yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  3.41 (s, 2H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  39.2, 52.7, 54.3, 85.4, 124.1 (q,  $J$  = 272 Hz), 125.1 (q,  $J$  = 4 Hz), 129.4 (q,  $J$  = 32 Hz), 130.4, 138.8, 168.4; IR (neat) 1736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_5\text{F}_3$ : C, 52.50; H, 4.72. Found: C, 52.57; H, 4.74.

**Diethyl [(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]phenylmalonate (7n) (Table 2, entry 14).** The general procedure was followed with (4-chlorophenyl)methyl methyl carbonate (**3f**) (200 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6b** (259 mg, 1.09 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7n** (285 mg, 79%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  1.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 4.20 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.30 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.9, 42.3, 61.7, 64.2, 127.5, 127.89, 127.93, 128.2, 131.8, 132.7, 134.6, 136.8, 170.0; IR (neat) 1735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4\text{Cl}$ : C, 66.57; H, 5.87. Found: C, 66.50; H, 5.88.

**Diethyl [{4-(Methoxycarbonyl)phenyl}methyl]phenylmalonate (7o) (Table 2, entry 15).** The general procedure was followed with [4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl]methyl methyl carbonate (**3g**) (225 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6b** (261 mg, 1.11 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/2) to give **7o** (331 mg, 86%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20–7.29 (m, 5H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 13.9, 42.9, 52.0, 61.8, 64.1, 127.6, 128.0, 128.2, 128.6, 129.0, 130.5, 136.6, 141.6, 167.0, 169.9; IR (neat) 1724 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 68.74; H, 6.29. Found: C, 68.75; H, 6.26.

**Diethyl Methyl[(1-naphthyl)methyl]malonate (7p) (Table 2, entry 16).**<sup>11</sup> The general procedure was followed with methyl (1-naphthyl)methyl carbonate (**3h**) (219 mg, 1.01 mmol) and **6a** (190 mg, 1.09 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7p** (292 mg, 92%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 4.13 (dq, *J* = 10.5, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (dq, *J* = 10.5, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 13.9, 20.2, 36.1, 55.2, 61.3, 124.1, 125.1, 125.4, 125.7, 127.6, 128.2, 128.7, 132.8, 133.0, 133.8

**Diethyl Methyl[(2-naphthyl)methyl]malonate (7q) (Table 2, entry 17).** The general procedure was followed with methyl (2-naphthyl)methyl carbonate (**3i**) (217 mg, 1.00 mmol) and **6a** (192 mg, 1.10 mmol). The crude product was purified by MPLC (EtOAc/hexane = 1/3) to give **7q** (290 mg, 92%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 2H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.82 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.0, 19.8, 41.2, 54.9, 61.4, 125.6, 125.9, 127.55, 127.58, 127.64, 128.4, 129.0, 132.4, 133.3, 133.8, 172.0; IR (neat) 1732 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 72.59; H, 7.05. Found: C, 72.22; H, 7.03.

**General Procedure of Palladium-Catalyzed Benzylic Amination.** A benzylic ester **3** (1.0 mmol) and an amine **8** (1.1 mmol) were added to a solution of [Pd(η<sup>3</sup>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(cod)]BF<sub>4</sub> (3.4 mg, 10 μmol), DPEphos (5.9 mg, 11 μmol) in DME (1.0 ml) at room temperature. The solution was stirred at 80 °C until the benzylic ester was consumed or until the reaction stopped. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with hexane, and was extracted with 1 *N* HCl aq. The combined aqueous layer was made basic with sat Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aq, and was extracted with hexane. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue passed through a short column on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to give the corresponding benzylamine **9**.

**Benzylidibutylamine (9a).**<sup>12</sup> The general procedure was followed with **3a** (167 mg, 1.00 mmol) and dibutylamine (**8a**) (143 mg, 1.10 mmol), giving **9a** (161 mg, 73%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.28 (sextet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.43 (quintet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 2.37 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 7.19–7.35 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.1, 20.6, 29.2, 53.5, 58.6, 126.5, 128.0, 128.8, 140.4.

**Dibutyl[(2-methylphenyl)methyl]amine (9b).** The general procedure was followed with **3b** (180 mg, 1.00 mmol), **8a** (143 mg, 1.11 mmol), [Pd(η<sup>3</sup>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(cod)]BF<sub>4</sub> (6.9 mg, 20 μmol), DPEphos (11.9 mg, 22 μmol), giving **9b** (186 mg, 80%): colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.27 (sextet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.42 (quintet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 7.09–7.16 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.35 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.0, 19.2, 20.6, 29.2, 53.7, 57.1, 125.4, 126.5, 129.5, 130.0, 137.1, 138.3; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N: C, 82.34; H, 11.66; N, 6.00. Found: C, 82.26; H, 11.58; N, 6.02.

**Dibutyl[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]amine (9c).** The general procedure was followed with **3c** (196 mg, 1.00 mmol), **8a** (144 mg, 1.11 mmol), [Pd(η<sup>3</sup>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(cod)]BF<sub>4</sub> (6.9 mg, 20 μmol), DPEphos (11.9 mg, 22 μmol), giving **9c** (223 mg, 90%): pale yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS) δ 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.29 (sextet, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.44 (quintet, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 2.39 (t, *J* = 7.3

Hz, 4H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.1, 20.6, 29.2, 53.3, 55.2, 57.8, 113.4, 129.9, 132.2, 158.3; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}$ : C, 77.06; H, 10.91; N, 5.62. Found: C, 76.89; H, 10.89; N, 5.57.

**Dibutyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methylamine (9d).** The general procedure was followed with **3e** (234 mg, 1.00 mmol), **8a** (145 mg, 1.12 mmol), giving **9d** (252 mg, 88%): pale yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  0.87 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 6H), 1.29 (sextet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 1.43 (quintet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 2.39 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.1, 20.6, 29.3, 53.7, 58.3, 124.4 (q,  $J = 272$  Hz), 125.0 (q,  $J = 3$  Hz), 128.8, 128.9 (q,  $J = 32$  Hz), 144.9; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NF}_3$ : C, 66.87; H, 8.42; N, 4.87. Found: C, 66.87; H, 8.42; N, 4.87.

**Methyl 4-(*N,N*-dibutylamino)benzoate (9e).** The general procedure was followed with **3g** (224 mg, 1.00 mmol), **8a** (144 mg, 1.11 mmol), giving **9e** (266 mg, 96%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  0.87 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 6H), 1.29 (sextet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 1.45 (quintet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 2.41 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 20.5, 29.1, 52.0, 53.6, 58.4, 128.7, 129.40, 129.44, 130.2, 167.2; IR (neat)  $1725\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_2$ : C, 73.61; H, 9.81; N, 5.05. Found: C, 73.78; H, 9.83; N, 5.09.

**Dibutyl[(1-naphthyl)methyl]amine (9f).** The general procedure was followed with **3h** (213 mg, 0.99 mmol) and **8a** (142 mg, 1.10 mmol), giving **9f** (246 mg, 93%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  0.83 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 6H), 1.26 (sextet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 1.48 (quintet,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 2.46 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 3.96 (s, 2H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.84 (m, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.0, 20.7, 29.0, 53.8, 57.4, 124.7, 125.2, 125.38, 125.40, 126.9, 127.4, 128.3, 132.5, 133.7, 136.0; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}$ : C, 84.70; H, 10.10; N, 5.20. Found: C, 84.54; H, 10.16; N, 5.12.

**4-[(1-Naphthyl)methyl]morpholine (9g).**<sup>13</sup> The general procedure was followed with **3h** (216 mg, 1.00 mmol), morpholine (**8b**) (102 mg, 1.17 mmol), giving **9g** (223 mg, 98%): colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  2.51 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 4H), 3.69 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 4H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 7.37–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.83–7.87 (m, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  53.8, 61.6, 67.1, 124.8, 125.0, 125.6, 125.7, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 132.5, 133.6, 133.8.

***N*-[(1-Naphthyl)methyl]aniline (9h).**<sup>14</sup> The general procedure was followed with **3h** (216 mg, 1.00 mmol), aniline (**8c**) (102 mg, 1.10 mmol), giving **9h** (220 mg, 94%): pale yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  4.01 (br s, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 6.70 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.75 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.56 (m, 3H), 7.81 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  46.4, 112.7, 117.6, 123.6, 125.5, 125.8, 126.0, 126.3, 128.2, 128.7, 129.3, 131.5, 133.9, 134.3, 148.2.

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