

NJC

Accepted Manuscript



This is an *Accepted Manuscript*, which has been through the Royal Society of Chemistry peer review process and has been accepted for publication.

Accepted Manuscripts are published online shortly after acceptance, before technical editing, formatting and proof reading. Using this free service, authors can make their results available to the community, in citable form, before we publish the edited article. We will replace this *Accepted Manuscript* with the edited and formatted *Advance Article* as soon as it is available.

You can find more information about *Accepted Manuscripts* in the [Information for Authors](#).

Please note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the text and/or graphics, which may alter content. The journal's standard [Terms & Conditions](#) and the [Ethical guidelines](#) still apply. In no event shall the Royal Society of Chemistry be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this *Accepted Manuscript* or any consequences arising from the use of any information it contains.

ARTICLE

One-pot and Odorless Thia-Michael Reaction by Copper Ferrite Nanoparticles Catalyzed Reaction of Elemental Sulfur, Aryl Halides and Electron-deficient Alkenes

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

Received 00th January 2012,

Accepted 00th January 2012

DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

www.rsc.org/

Mohammad Gholinejad,*^a Habib Firouzabadi*^b

In this article, we report a non-odorous protocol for the high yielding generation of aryl-alkyl sulfides from the reaction of aryl iodides, bromides and boronic acids with elemental sulfur and electron-deficient alkenes catalyzed by copper ferrite nanoparticles. The catalyst could be easily separated by an external magnetic bar and recycled for consecutive runs with preserving its catalytic activity.

Introduction

Aryl sulfide moieties are present in the structure of various numbers of medicines which are employed for Alzheimer, Parkinson, diabetes, immune and inflammatory diseases.¹ Therefore, reactions leading to generation of carbon-sulfur bonds formation is of importance for the synthesis of numerous pharmaceutically and biologically active compounds. Among the different types of reactions leading to carbon-sulfur bonds, the thia-Michael addition is one of the most versatile and practical ones for preparation of sulfides bearing varieties of functional groups such as -CN, -CONH₂, -OH, -COOR, etc.² The resultant β -sulfido carbonyl compounds from the reaction of aliphatic or aromatic thiols with α,β -unsaturated ketones provides a strategy for the chemoselective protection of C=C bonds.³ These compounds work as starting materials for the generation of β -acylvinyl cation equivalents and homoenolate equivalents. Thia-Michael reaction proceeds in the presence of both acidic and basic catalysts for the direct addition of thiols to Michael acceptors. In literature, ionic liquids such as molten tetrabutyl ammonium bromide⁴ or 1-pentyl-3-methylimidazolium bromide,⁵ heterogeneous catalysts such as KF/Al₂O₃,⁶ perchloric acid impregnated on silica gel,⁷ montmorillonite clay⁸ and heteropolyacids,⁹ silica sulfuric acid,¹⁰ borax, boric acid,¹¹ and Nafion SAC-13¹² are reported to catalyze direct addition of thiols to α,β -unsaturated compounds. By the discovery of copper-catalyzed Ullmann coupling reaction¹³ an important achievement was attained for the

construction of sp² carbon-sulfur bond in organic synthesis. However, the Ullmann coupling reactions are known to suffer from high reaction temperatures and low functional group tolerance. Moreover, the C-S coupling reactions are mostly carried out in the presence of expensive, toxic, flammable organic solvents and their disposal becomes a serious problem for the chemical industries¹³. In recent years, serious attention has been paid to reduce the aforementioned problems. For this purpose, the catalytic activity of different transition metals such as palladium,¹⁴ nickel,¹⁵ cobalt,¹⁶ copper,¹⁷ indium,¹⁸ iron,¹⁹ and manganese salts²⁰ have been studied under milder reaction conditions.

Although these efforts have solved some of the mentioned problems associated with classic Ullmann reaction, however, main drawback which is the use of volatile and foul smelling thiols is still a real obstacle. Therefore, introduction of new strategies for catalytic aryl carbon-sulfur bond formation leading to more economical, more competent and eco-friendly protocols have been under severe considerations. Along this line of efforts, recently our group reported odorless carbon-sulfur bond formation reactions in water and polyethylene glycol.²¹ After appearance of these reports, many researchers have become interested in odorless C-S bond formation reactions and published articles in this respect.²² However, despite the efficiency of the reported methods, they are applicable to alkyl and benzyl halides under homogeneous reaction conditions in which the catalysts are not recoverable.

In addition, in all the reported protocols, less attention has been paid to the development of the odorless thia-Michael reaction.²⁴ In recent years, preparation of magnetically separable catalysts has been well explored.²⁵ Among the different magnetic compounds, CuFe_2O_4 NPs has shown versatile catalytic activities in different organic transformations.²⁶ Recently, CuFe_2O_4 NPs as a heterogeneous catalyst for odorless thia etherification reaction has been reported.²⁷ Very recently, palladium nanoparticles in the presence of CuFe_2O_4 has been also reported as a magnetically separable heterogeneous catalyst for cyanation of aryl halides²⁸ and Sonogashira coupling reaction.²⁹

Among the reported sulfur surrogates, elemental sulfur is one of the easily available and a cheap sulfur source for the formation of thiolate moiety²³ and as the result for C-S bond formation. Now in this context, new efficient and odorless strategy for thia-Michael reaction using magnetically separable CuFe_2O_4 NPs catalyzed one-pot reaction of aryl halides, elemental sulfur and α,β -unsaturated compounds to generate different aryl alkyl sulfides is described.

Results and discussion

CuFe_2O_4 NPs was synthesized by a procedure reported in the literature using $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ salts.²⁶ⁿ The structure of CuFe_2O_4 NPs was characterized using transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis. TEM image of CuFe_2O_4 NPs showed the average size of particles to be in the range of 40-60 nm and XRD revealed the characteristic peaks related to CuFe_2O_4 NPs according to JCPDS file No. 34-0425.25.

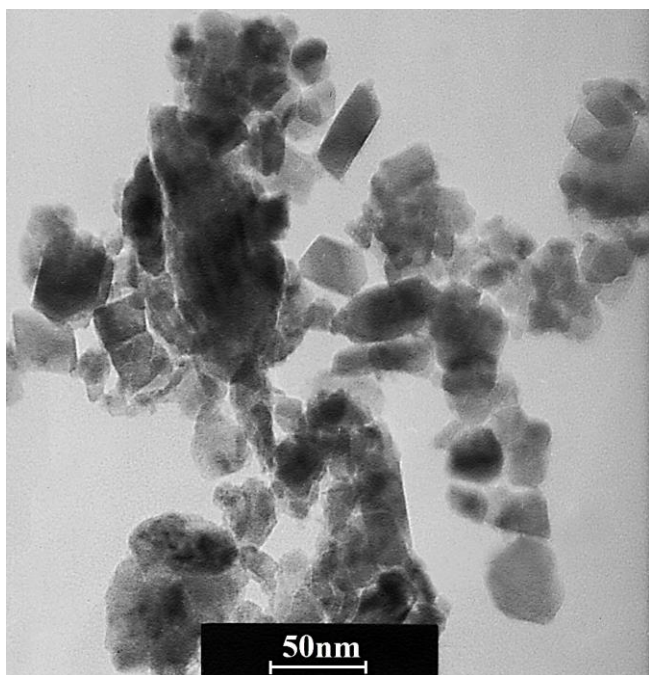


Fig 1. TEM image of the prepared CuFe_2O_4 NPs

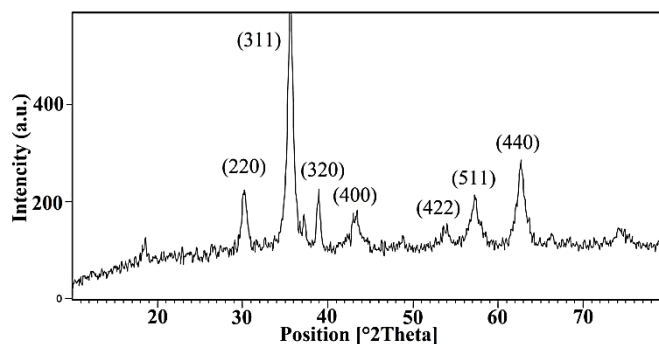
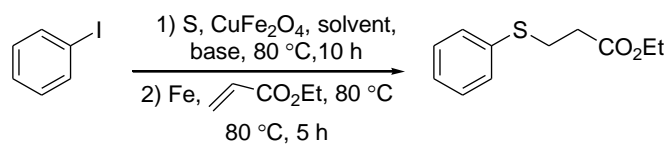


Fig. 2 XRD pattern of the prepared CuFe_2O_4 NPs.

Preliminary, the reaction of iodobenzene with elemental sulfur powder, Fe powder and *n*-butyl acrylate in the presence of the catalyst was selected as a model reaction to optimize the reaction conditions with respect to solvents and bases (Table 1).

Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions^a using iodobenzene with elemental sulfur and *n*-butyl acrylate as a model reaction.^a



Entry	Solvent	base	Yield(%) ^b
1	DMF	K_2CO_3	58
2	DMF	K_3PO_4	75
3	Toluene	K_2CO_3	2
4	Toluene	K_3PO_4	10
5	H_2O	K_2CO_3	30
6	PEG (200)	K_2CO_3	84
7	Dioxane	K_2CO_3	6
8	CH_3CN	K_2CO_3	8
9	PEG (200)	NaOAc	24
10	PEG (200)	DABCO	5
11	PEG (200)	K_3PO_4	94
12	PEG (200)	K_3PO_4	6 ^c
13	H_2O	K_3PO_4	35

^a Reactions were performed on a 0.5 mmol scale. ^b Yields were determined by GC. ^c Reaction in the absence of CuFe_2O_4 NPs.

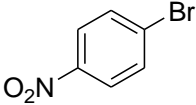
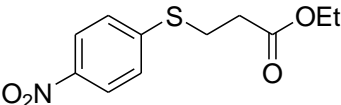
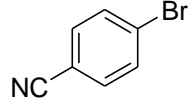
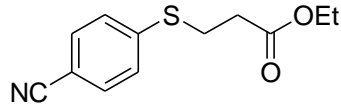
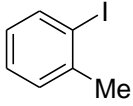
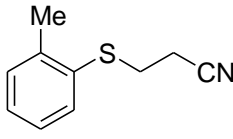
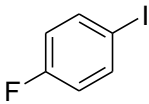
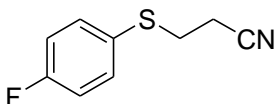
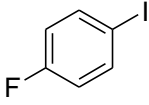
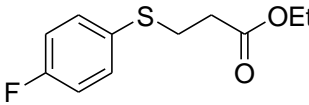
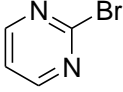
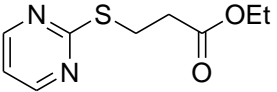
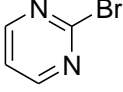
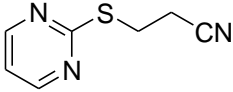
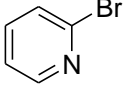
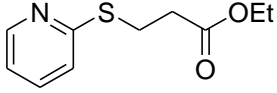
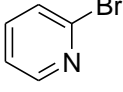
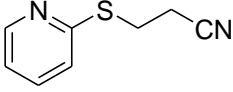
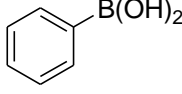
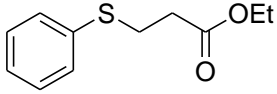
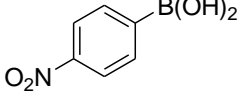
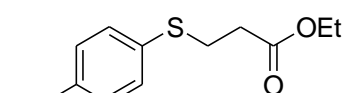
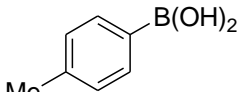
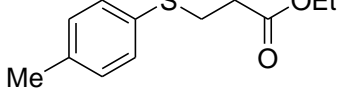
The results of Table 1 indicate that using PEG (200) as a safe and eco-friendly solvent and K_3PO_4 as a base at 80 °C is the most efficient reaction conditions. Study of the model reaction under optimized reaction conditions in the absence of catalyst afforded only 6% GC yield (Table 1, entry 12). The scope of the reaction was further expanded for the reactions of structurally varied aryl compounds [I, Br, $\text{B}(\text{OH})_2$] with sulfur element and α,β -unsaturated compounds under the obtained optimized reaction conditions (Table 2). The results of Table 2 indicate that aryl iodides were reacted efficiently and the desired sulfides were obtained in excellent yields. However, the reaction of aryl bromides at 80 °C was sluggish therefore; the reaction temperature was raised to 100 °C. Under this condition, the reaction of aryl bromides was performed well and the corresponding aryl alkyl sulfides were obtained in high to excellent yields. In addition, the reactions of arylboronic acid derivatives were also studied under the optimized conditions at 80 °C. The reactions were proceeded smoothly to produce the desired aryl alkyl sulfides in high yields (Table 2). The presence of electron withdrawing groups at the *para*-position of the aryl halides give higher yields compared to electron

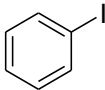
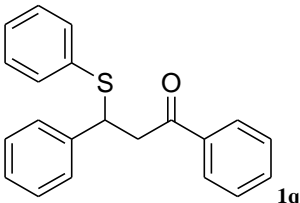
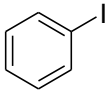
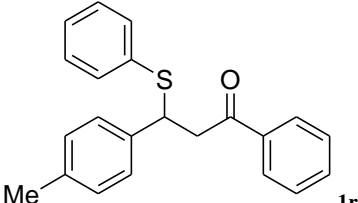
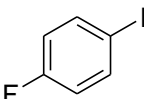
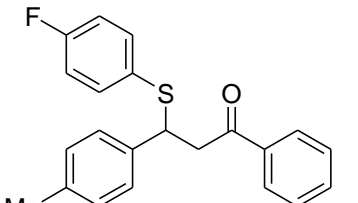
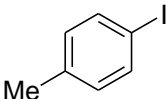
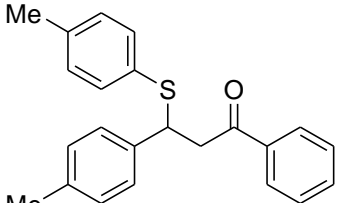
donating groups at the *para*-position. Also, results of Table 2 indicated that structurally different electron-deficient alkenes such as ethyl acrylate, *n*-butyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, chalcone,

and 4-methylchalcone were reacted efficiently as thia-Michael acceptors. However, our studies show that the protocol was not successful for aryl chlorides even at higher temperatures.

Table 2. Thia-Michael addition reaction of aryl compounds with electron-deficient alkenes for the synthesis of aryl alkyl sulfides using sulfur element as a sulfur surrogate catalyzed by CuFe_2O_4 .

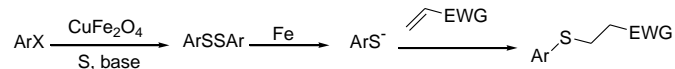
Entry	ArX	Michael acceptor	Product	Isolated Yield (%) ^a
1		Ethyl acrylate		86
2		<i>n</i> -Butyl acrylate		84
3		Acrylonitrile		87
4		<i>n</i> -Butyl acrylate		80 (2) ^b
5		Ethyl acrylate		81
6		<i>n</i> -Butyl acrylate		84
7		Acrylonitrile		84
8		Acrylonitrile		83
9		Ethyl acrylate		77

10		Ethyl acrylate		1h	91
11		Ethyl acrylate		1i	89
12		Acrylonitrile		1j	80
13		Acrylonitrile		1k	92
14		Ethyl acrylate		1l	87
15		Ethyl acrylate		1m	86
16		Acrylonitrile		1n	89
17		Ethyl acrylate		1o	79
18		Acrylonitrile		1p	82
19		Ethyl acrylate		1a	80
20		Ethyl acrylate		1h	87
21		<i>n</i> -Butyl acrylate		1e	82

22		Chalcone		80
23		4-Methylchalcone		74
24		4-Methylchalcone		75
25		4-Methylchalcone		72

^a Reaction condition: CuFe₂O₄ (12 mg, 5 mol%), ArX (1 mmol), S (48 mg, 3 mmol), Fe (1 mmol), alkene (1.5 mmol) and PEG 200 (2 mL). ^b GC yield in the absence of catalyst.

We believe a reasonable reaction pathway of the reaction is similar with the reported mechanism in which, in the first step, the reaction of aryl compounds with sulfur in the presence of the catalyst and a base proceeded with the formation of diaryl disulfides.^{23d} In the second step, cleavage of S-S bond by the addition of iron powder occurs to produce the thiolate moiety³⁰ that easily reacts with the electron deficient alkenes (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Proposed reaction pathway

The stability and reusability are significant factors for assessing the performance of the heterogeneous catalysts. We have studied recyclability of the catalyst for the reaction of iodobenzene with elemental sulfur and ethyl acrylate under optimized reaction conditions. After completion of reaction, the catalyst was easily separated by an external magnet which after

washing with diethyl ether and drying, was charged again into another batch of the reaction. The recycling process was repeated for 5 consecutive runs with small drops in catalytic activity (Figure. 3).

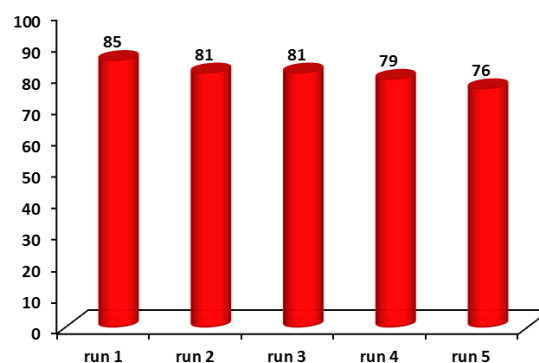
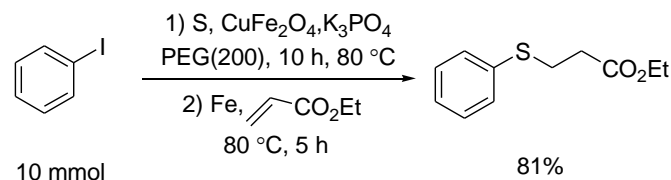


Fig. 3. The recycling of CuFe_2O_4 NPs for the reaction of iodobenzene with elemental sulfur and ethyl acrylate under the optimized reaction conditions.

The procedure is also suitable for laboratory large scale operation. For this purpose, 10 mmol (2.04g) of iodobenzene was reacted under the optimized condition to give the desired aryl alkyl sulfide in 81% isolated yield as presented in Scheme 2.



Scheme 2. The laboratory large scale operation using iodobenzene, sulfur element, the catalyst and ethyl acrylate in PEG (200).

Conclusions

In conclusion, in this report, we have introduced a new strategy for the synthesis of aryl-alkyl sulfides from the reaction of aryl iodides, bromides and boronic acids with elemental sulfur and electron-deficient alkenes using iron powder as a reducing agent catalyzed by copper ferrite nanoparticles under non-odorous conditions. The strong points of the introduced protocol are: a) separation of the catalyst from the reaction mixture by an external magnetic field makes the isolation of the products from the reaction mixture an easy process, b) the use of a cheap and a highly available sulfur powder as the source of sulfur atom makes the process more attractive from economical points of views, c) the protocol is applicable for large-scale operation, d) the catalyst is recyclable which has been applied in several consecutive runs without noticeable change in its catalytic activity and e) the reactions were proceeded under non-odorous conditions in PEG (200) as an eco-friendly media. We believe this protocol is a highly useful addition to the available non-odorous procedures for the high yielding preparation of aryl-alkyl sulfides. By this protocol, aryl chlorides which are much cheaper than their corresponding bromides and iodides do not undergo the reaction. This may be considered as a weak point of the presented procedure.

Experimental:

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Acros and Merck Chemical Companies and were used without further purification. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 Merck (230-240 mesh) in glass columns (2 or 3 cm diameter) using 15-30 grams of silica gel per one gram of the crude mixture. ^1H NMR was recorded at 400 MHz and ^{13}C NMR was recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl_3 using TMS as internal standard. X-ray diffraction (XRD) was recorded on Philips X'PertPro. The size of the particles of the catalyst was

determined by transmission electron microscopy using Philips CM-120 instrument.

General procedure for the preparation of aryl alkyl sulfides from aryl compounds

CuFe_2O_4 (12 mg, 5 mol%), aryl compound (1 mmol), S (3 mmol), and PEG(200) (2 mL) were added to a flask equipped with a magnetic bar. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred magnetically for 10 h at 80 °C for aryl iodides and boronic acids and at 100 °C for aryl bromides. Then, iron powder (1 mmol) and the alkene (1.5 mmol) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h. After completion of the reaction (5 h), the resulting reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The catalyst was separated by an external magnet from the mixture and the produced crude product was extracted with EtOAc which after flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/*n*-hexane) afforded the highly pure aryl alkyl sulfides in 72-92 isolated yields (Table 2).

1a: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.14 (m, 2H), 3.19 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 2.64 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 1.28 (t, 3H, $J = 6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.76, 135.30, 130.11, 129.04, 126.56, 60.74, 34.48, 29.08, 14.21.

1b: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.40 (d, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 4.11 (t, 2H, $J = 6.8$), 3.20 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.65 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 1.67-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.35 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.88, 135.28, 130.09, 129.05, 126.56, 64.68, 34.46, 30.62, 29.09, 19.15, 13.74.

1c: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.44 (d, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 7.38-7.29 (m, 3H), 3.14 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.61 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 133.19, 131.44, 129.45, 127.78, 118.10, 30.26, 18.29.

1d: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.32 (d, 2H, $J = 8$), 7.14 (d, 2H, $J = 8$), 4.10 (t, 2H, $J = 6.4$), 3.14 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.62 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.66-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.44-1.37 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.93, 136.82, 131.05, 129.82, 64.60, 34.45, 30.64, 29.82, 21.07, 19.16, 13.75.

1e: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.31 (d, 2H, $J = 8$), 7.13 (d, 2H, $J = 8$), 4.18-4.13 (m, 2H), 3.14 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.61 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, 2H, $J = 6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): 171.83, 136.82, 131.42, 131.05, 129.82, 60.68, 34.54, 29.78, 21.07, 14.23.

1f: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.36 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 7.18 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 3.09 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.58 (d, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.37 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 138.21, 132.29, 130.21, 129.35, 118.17, 30.89, 21.16, 18.26.

1g: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.35 (d, 2H, $J = 8$), 7.22-7.13 (m, 3H), 4.20-4.15 (m, 2H), 3.18 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.66 (t, 2H, $J = 7.6$), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, 3H, $J = 6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.83, 138.41, 134.58, 130.30, 129.08, 126.52, 126.34, 60.76, 34.32, 28.25, 20.47, 14.23.

1h: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.17 (d, 2H, $J = 8.8$), 7.39 (d, 2H, $J = 8.8$), 4.23-4.18 (m, 2H), 3.33 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$), 2.74 (t,

2H, $J=7.2$), 1.30 (t, 2H, $J=6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.19, 146.39, 126.61, 124.13, 61.14, 33.63, 27.05, 14.

1i: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.57 (d, 2H, $J=8.4$), 7.36 (d, 2H, $J=8.4$), 4.22-4.16 (m, 2H), 3.28 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 2.70 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$), 1.29 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.25, 143.62, 132.41, 127.33, 118.77, 108.74, 61.06, 33.75, 27.09, 14.20.

1j: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.17 (m, 3H), 3.14-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.63-2.58 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 139.70, 132.44, 130.82, 130.80, 127.67, 126.83, 118.17, 29.39, 20.60, 18.12.

1k: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.09 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$), 2.59 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 164.0, 161.53, 134.72, 134.64, 128.13, 128.09, 117.91, 116.74, 116.52, 31.37, 18.31.

1l: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.40-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.98 (m, 2H), 4.16-4.11 (m, 2H), 3.11 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 2.58 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 1.25 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 171.64, 163.34, 160.88, 133.38, 133.30, 130.08, 130.05, 60.74, 34.44, 30.37, 14.18.

1m: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.54 (d, 2H, $J=4.8$), 7.01-6.98 (m, 1H), 4.22-4.17 (m, 2H), 3.41 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 2.83 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 1.29 (t, 3H, $J=6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 172.02, 171.94, 157.35, 116.60, 60.74, 34.37, 25.91, 14.24.

1n: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.57(d, 2H, $J=4.8$), 7.07-7.05 (m, 1H), 3.41 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 2.91 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 170.63, 157.62, 118.37, 117.18, 26.64, 18.34.

1o: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.45 (d, 1H, $J=4.4$), 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, 1H, $J=8.4$), 7.02-6.99 (m, 1H), 4.22-4.16 (m, 2H), 3.46 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 2.80 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$), 1.29 (t, 3H, $J=6.8$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 172.16, 158.23, 149.44, 136.03, 122.45, 119.51, 60.68, 34.74, 24.99, 14.24.

1p: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.45 (d, 1H, $J=4.4$), 7.56-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, 1H, $J=8$), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 3.45 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$), 2.89 (t, 2H, $J=7.2$). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 156.62, 149.59, 136.28, 122.70, 120.02, 118.67, 25.56, 18.75.

1q: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.92 (d, 2H, $J=7.6$), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.20 (m, 6H), 5.0 (t, 1H, $J=7.6$), 3.74-3.58 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 197.04, 141.20, 136.74, 134.26, 133.31, 132.78, 128.89, 128.65, 128.50, 128.10, 127.84, 127.57, 127.41, 48.23, 44.71.

1r: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.86 (d, 2H, $J=8$), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.05 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, 2H, $J=7.6$) 4.93 (dd, 1H, $J=8.4$, $J=6$), 3.6-3.51 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 196.93, 137.86, 136.79, 136.42, 134.25, 133.2, 122.21, 129.0, 128.77, 128.52, 127.85, 127.48, 127.3, 47.64, 44.47, 20.95.

1s: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.94 (d, 2H, $J=7.2$), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.94 (m, 2H), 4.89 (t, $J=6.8$, 1H), 3.70-3.57 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101

MHz): δ 196.97, 163.92, 161.45, 138.08, 137.13, 136.76, 135.87, 135.79, 133.34, 129.22, 128.68, 128.12, 127.69, 116.06, 115.84, 48.88, 44.48, 21.16.

1t: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.92 (d, 2H, $J=6.8$), 7.60-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 4H), 4.94 (dd, 1H, $J=8.4$, $J=6$), 3.72-3.56 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 197.28, 138.24, 137.75, 136.99, 136.82, 133.33, 133.23, 130.71, 129.71, 129.20, 128.62, 128.12, 127.71, 48.35, 44.73, 21.20, 21.18.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences (IASBS) Research Council and Iran National Science Foundation (INSF-Grant number of 93020713) for support of this work. H.F. is also thankful to for the partial support of this work by National Elite Foundation of Iran by grant number BN048.

Notes and references

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences (IASBS), P. O. Box 45195-1159, Gavazang, Zanjan 45137-6731, Iran. Email: gholinejad@iasbs.ac.ir

^bThe Late Professor Ali Akbar Moshfegh Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, College of Sciences Shiraz University, Shiraz, 71454, Iran

- (a) E. Block, Reactions of Organosulfur Compounds, Academic Press, New York, 1978; (b) P.I. Beletskaya, P. A. Valentine, *Chem. Rev.* 2011, **111**, 1596; (c) G. Liu, J. R. Huth, E.T. Olejniczak, R. Mendoza, P. DeVries, S. Leitza, E.B. Reilly, G.F. Okasinski, E. Nielsen, S.W. Fesik, T. W. von Geldern, *J. Med. Chem.* 2001, **44**, 1202; (d) S. F. Nielsen, E. Ø. Nielsen, G. M. Olsen, T. Liljefors, D. Peters, *J. Med. Chem.* 2000, **43**, 2217; (e) G. Liu, J. R. Huth, E.T. Olejniczak, R. Mendoza, P. DeVries, S. Leitza, E. B. Reilly, G.F. Okasinski, S.W. Fesik, T.W. von Geldern, *J. Med. Chem.* 2001, **44**, 1202; (f) A. Gangjee, Y. Zeng, T. Talreja, J. J. McGuire, R.L. Kisliuk, S.F. Queener, *J. Med. Chem.* 2007, **50**, 3046; (g) A.-M. Faucher, P. W. White, C. Brochu, C. G. Maitre, J. Rancourt, G. Fazal, *J. Med. Chem.* 2004, **47**, 18; (h) Y. Wang, W. Chang, V. R. Greenlee, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 2001, **11**, 891; (i) S. W. Kadlor, V. J. Kalish, J. F. Davies, *J. Med. Chem.* 1997, **40**, 3979.
- (a) P. Perlmutter, Conjugate Addition Reaction in Organic Synthesis Pergamon Press. Oxford. 1992; (b) A. L. Fulharty, In the chemistry of thiol group, Patai, S. Ed., Wiley: New York, 1974, Part 2, 589. (c) J. H. Clark, *Chem. Rev.* 1980, **80**, 429; (d) I. V. Koval, *Russ. J. Org. Chem.* 2007, **43**, 319; (e) W. Guo, G. Lv, J. Chen, W. Gao, J. Ding, H. Wu, *Tetrahedron*, 2010, **66**, 2297.
- D. P. Nair, M. Podgórski, S. Chatani, T. Gong, W. Xi, C. R. Fenoli, C. N. Bowman, *Chem. Mater.* 2014, **26**, 724.
- B. C. Ranu, S. S. Dey, A. Hajra, *Tetrahedron* 2003, **59**, 2417.
- B. C. Ranu, S. S. Dey, *Tetrahedron* 2004, **60**, 4183.
- F. M. Moghaddam, G. R. Bardajee, R. Oftadeh, C. Veranlou, *Synthetic Commun.* 2005, **35**, 2427.
- A. T. Khan, S. Ghosh, L. H. Choudhury, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2006, 2226.
- G. Sharma, R. Kumar, A. K. Chakraborti, *J. Mol. Cat A: Chem.* 2007, **263**, 143.

9. X. Chen, J. She, Z. Shang, J. Wu, P. Zhang, *Synthesis* 2008, **24**, 3931.
10. D. M. Pore, M. S. Soudagar, U. V. Desai, T. S. Thopatea, P. P. Wadagaonkar, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2006, **47**, 9325.
11. S. Hussain, S. K. Bhardwaj, M. K. Chaudhuri, H. Kalita, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2007, 374.
12. T. C. Wabnitz, J.-Q. Yu, J. B. Spencer, *Synlett* 2003, 1070.
13. C. Sambigiagio, S. P. Marsden, A. J. Blacker, P. C. McGowan, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* 2014, **43**, 3525.
14. (a) C. S. Bryan, J. A. Braunger, M. Lautens, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2009, **48**, 7064; (b) M. A. Fernández-Rodríguez, Q. Shen, J. F. Hartwig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2006, **128**, 2180; (d) Z. Jiang, J. She, X. Lin, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2009, **351**, 2558; (e) C. C. Eichman, J. P. Stambuli, *J. Org. Chem.* 2009, **74**, 4005; (f) C.-F. Fu, Y.-H. Liu, S.-M. Peng, S.-T. Liu, *Tetrahedron* 2010, **66**, 2119.
15. V. Percec, J. Y. Bae, D. H. Hill, *J. Org. Chem.* 1995, **60**, 6895.
16. Y.-C. Wong, T. T. Jayanth, C.-H. Cheng, *Org. Lett.* 2006, **8**, 5613.
17. (a) F. Y. Kwong, S. L. Buchwald, *Org. Lett.* 2002, **4**, 3517; (b) C. G. Bates, R. K. Gujadhur, D. Venkataraman, *Org. Lett.* 2002, **4**, 2803; (c) Y.-J. Chen, H. H. Chen, *Org. Lett.* 2006, **8**, 5609; (d) M. Kuhn, F. C. Falk, J. Paradies, *Org. Lett.* 2011, **13**, 4100; (e) M. Carril, R. SanMartin, E. Dominguez, I. Tellitu, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2007, **13**, 5100; (f) N. Taniguchi, T. Onami, *J. Org. Chem.* 2004, **69**, 915; (g) C. G. Bates, P. Saejueng, M. Q. Doherty, D. Venkataraman, *Org. Lett.* 2004, **6**, 5005; (h) P. S. Herradura, K. A. Pendola, R. K. Guy, *Org. Lett.* 2000, **2**, 2019; (i) C. Savarin, J. Srogl, L. S. Liebeskind, *Org. Lett.* 2002, **4**, 4309; (j) H.-J. Xu, Y.-F. Liang, X.-F. Zhoua, Y.-S. Feng, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2012, **10**, 2562; (k) J. Mondal, A. Modak, A. Dutta, S. Basu, S. N. Jha, D. Bhattacharyya, A. Bhaumik, *Chem. Commun.* 2012, **48**, 8000; (l) J. Mondal, A. Modak, A. Dutta, A. Bhaumik, *Dalton Trans.* 2011, **40**, 5228; (m) J. Mondal, N. Salam, A. Bhaumik, *J. Nanosci. Nanotechnol.* 2013, **13**, 4883; (n) A. Kamal, V. Srinivasulu, J. N. S. R. C. Murty, N. Shankaraiah, N. Nagesh, T. S. Reddy, A. V. S. Rao, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2013, **355**, 2297; (o) P. Zhao, H. Yin, H. Gao, C. Xi, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2013, **78**, 5001; (p) F. Wang, C. Chen, G. Deng, C. Xi, *J. Org. Chem.* 2012, **77**, 4148; (q) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, A. Samadi, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2014, **55**, 1212.
18. (a) P. Reddy, K. Swapna, A. V. Kumar, K. R. Rao, *J. Org. Chem.* 2009, **74**, 3189; (b) V. P. Reddy, A. V. Kumar, K. Swapna, K. R. Rao, *Org. Lett.* 2009, **11**, 1697.
19. (a) J. R. Wu, C. H. Lin, C. F. Lee, *Chem. Commun.* 2009, 4450; (b) A. Correa, M. Carril, C. Bolm, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2008, **47**, 2880.
20. M. Bandaru, N. M. Sabbavaru, R. Katla, V. D. N. Yadavalli, *Chem. Lett.* 2010, **39**, 1149.
21. H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, M. Abbasi, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2009, **351**, 755; (b) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, M. Gholinejad, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2010, **352**, 119; (c) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, M. Abbasi, *Tetrahedron* 2009, **65**, 5293; (d) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, M. Abbasi, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 2010, **83**, 698; (e) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, M. Abbasi, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2010, **51**, 508; (f) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, A. Samadi, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2014, **55**, 1212; (g) H. Firouzabadi, N. Iranpoor, F. Gorginpour, A. Samadi, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2015, 2914.
22. (a) H. Liu, X. Jiang, *Chem. Asian J.* 2013, **8**, 2546; (b) M. Kuhn, F. C. Falk, J. Paradies, *Org. Lett.* 2011, **13**, 4100; (c) F. Ke, Y. Qu, Z. Jiange, Z. Li, D. Wu, X. Zhou, *Org. Lett.* 2011, **13**, 454; (d) N. Park, K. Park, M. Jang, S. Lee, *J. Org. Chem.* 2011, **76**, 4371; (e) D. J. C. Prasad, G. Sekar., *Org. Lett.* 2011, **13**, 1008; (f) N. Park, Y. Heo, M. R. Kumar, Y. Kim, K. H. Song, S. Lee, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2012, 1984; (g) M. Gholinejad, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2013, 257.
23. (a) Y. Li, C. Nie, H. Wang, X. Li, F. Verpoort, C. Duan, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2011, 7331; (b) Y. Jiang, Y. Qin, S. Xie, X. Zhang, J. Dong, D. Ma, *Org. Lett.* 2009, **11**, 5250; (c) C. Chen, Y. Xie, L. Chu, R.-W. Wang, X. Zhang, F.-L. Qing, *Angew. Chem.* 2012, **124**, 2542; (d) Z. Li, F. Ke, H. Deng, H. Xu, H. Xiang, X. Zhou, *Biomol. Chem.* 2013, **11**, 2943.
24. N. Azizi, Z. Yadollahy, A. R. Oskooee, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2014, **55**, 1722.
25. S. Laurent, D. Forge, M. Port, A. Roch, C. Robic, L. V. Elst, R. N. Muller, *Chem. Rev.* 2008, **108**, 2064.
26. (a) M. L. Kantam, J. Yadav, S. Laha, S. Jha, *Synlett* 2009 1791; (b) Y. L. N. Murthy, B. S. Diwakar, B. Govindh, K. Naglakshmi, I. V. K. Viswanath, R. Singh, *J. Chem. Sci.* 2012, **124**, 639; (c) R. Zhang, J. Liu, S. Wang, J. Niu, C. Xi, W. Sun, *ChemCatChem* 2011, **3**, 146; (d) V. Avudoddi, V. K. G. Palle, V. R. Pallapothula, *Eur. J. Chem.* 2012, **3**, 298; (e) S. Yang, C. Wu, H. Zhou, Y. Yang, Y. Zhao, C. Wang, W. Yang, J. Xua, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2013, **355**, 53; (f) S. Yang, W. Xie, H. Zhou, C. Wu, Y. Yang, J. Niu, W. Yang, J. Xu, *Tetrahedron* 2013, **69**, 3415; (g) K. Swapna, S. N. Murthy, M. T. Jyothi, Y. V. D. Nageswar, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2011, **9**, 5989; (i) N. Panda, A. K. Jena, S. Mohapatra, *Appl. Catal. A* 2012, **433-434**, 258; (j) R. Zhang, C. Miao, Z. Shen, S. Wang, C. Xia, W. Sun, *ChemCatChem* 2012, **4**, 824; (k) K. Swapna, S. N. Murthy, Y. V. D. Nageswar, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2011, 1940-1946; (l) K. H. V. Reddy, G. Satish, K. Ramesh, K. Karnakar, Y. V. D. Nageswar, *Chem. Lett.* 2012, **41**, 585; (m) D. Kundu, N. Mukherjee, B. C. Ranu, *RSC Adv.* 2013, **3**, 117; (n) N. Panda, A. K. Jena, S. Mohapatra, S. R. Rout, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2011, **52**, 1924.
27. M. Gholinejad, B. Karimi, F. Mansouri, *J. Mol. Cat. A: Chem.* 2014, **386**, 20.
28. M. Gholinejad, A. Aminianfar, *J. Mol. Cat. A: Chem.* 2015, **397**, 106.
29. M. Gholinejad, J. Ahmadi, *ChemPlusChem*. doi: 10.1002/cplu.201500015.
30. H. Wang, L. Jiang, T. Chen, Y. Li, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 2324.