Synthesis   J. Pletz et al.   THIEME OPEN ACCESS   **Feature**
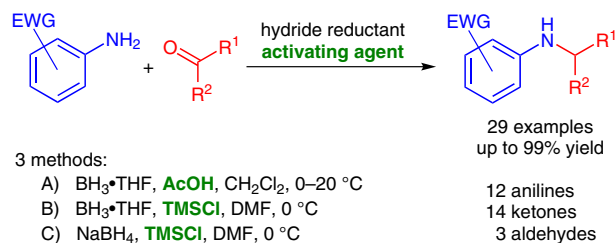
A General and Direct Reductive Amination of Aldehydes and Ketones with Electron-Deficient Anilines

Jakob Pletz
Bernhard Berg
Rolf Breinbauer*

Institute of Organic Chemistry, Graz University of Technology, Stremayrgasse 9, 8010 Graz, Austria
breinbauer@tugraz.at

In memoriam Philipp Köck

29 examples
up to 99% yield

12 anilines
14 ketones
3 aldehydes

3 methods:
A) BH$_3$•THF, **AcOH**, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 0–20 °C
B) BH$_3$•THF, **TMSCl**, DMF, 0 °C
C) NaBH$_4$, **TMSCl**, DMF, 0 °C

Abstract In our ongoing efforts in preparing tool compounds for investigating and controlling the biosynthesis of phenazines, we recognized the limitations of existing protocols for C–N bond formation of electron-deficient anilines when using reductive amination. After extensive optimization, we have established three robust and scalable protocols for the reductive amination of ketones with electron-deficient anilines, by using either BH$_3$·THF/AcOH/CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (method A), with reaction times of several hours, or the more powerful combinations BH$_3$·THF/TMSCl/DMF (method B) and NaBH$_4$/TMSCl/DMF (method C), which give full conversions for most substrates within 10 to 25 minutes. The scope and limitations of these reactions have been defined for 12 anilines and 14 ketones.

Key words amines, anilines, borane, hydride, reductive amination, ketones, process chemistry, sodium borohydride

Introduction

In 2005 I saw at a conference in London a poster by the structural biologist and enzymologist Wulf Blankenfeldt, who presented his progress on the investigation of the biosynthesis of phenazines, a class of bacterial natural products among which the virulence factor pyocyanine is probably its most prominent member.[1] He had already solved the structure of several enzymes along this biosynthetic pathway, but there were several open mechanistic questions, for which it would be important to have substrate analogues binding to these proteins. These probes would ideally serve also as inhibitors of these enzymes, potentially allowing the chemical control of the biosynthesis pathway – an attractive goal and formidable challenge for a synthetic organic chemist and the starting point of a fruitful collaboration between our two groups.

Our first goal was the design and synthesis of analogues of intermediates in the transformation catalyzed by the protein PhzA/B. According to Wulf's proposal,[1] this enzyme was expected to catalyze the imine formation between the putative aminoketone **B**, resulting from the transformation of PhzF with dihydrohydroxyanthranilic acid (DHHA; **A**), with itself, thereby establishing the tricyclic skeleton **C**, from which after a series of oxidation reactions phenazine-carboxylic acid **E** will be formed (Scheme 1). In my group the project was pursued by two talented students: Almut Graebsch synthesized in her diploma thesis the first ligands, which could be shown, by isothermal calorimetry
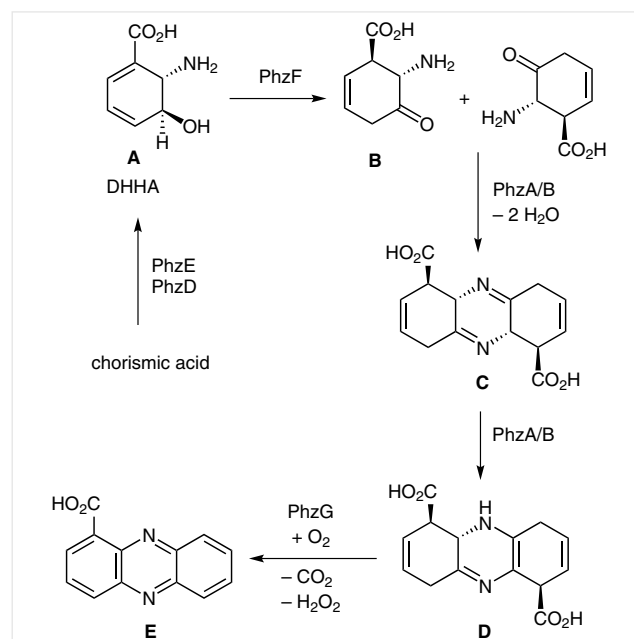
Scheme 1 Biosynthesis of phenazines

1302

Synthesis   J. Pletz et al.   THIEME OPEN ACCESS   **Feature**

(ITC) and X-ray crystallography of the protein ligand complex, to bind to PhzA/B. This work was continued by Matthias Mentel, who, after the move of our laboratory to the University of Leipzig, used information gained from X-ray crystallography and ITC to design even more potent molecules, ultimately leading to two important ligands, which we named 'Phenazistatin' (**F**) and 'Maverick' (**G**) (Figure 1). Phenazistatin, which binds to PhzA/B with a K_d = 51 nM, is a strongly affine ligand, mimicking the intermediate after the first imine formation catalyzed by PhzA/B. The X-ray crystal structure of the protein-ligand complex of PhzA/B·**F** proved important for the unambiguous assignment of the biological purpose and mechanistic details of PhzA/B function.[2] Compound **G** was isolated in 1% yield, as Matthias noticed it as a minor byproduct in the Ullmann–Goldberg reaction of 2-bromobenzoic acid with 3-aminopiperidine, where

waste products of the Ullmann–Goldberg reaction led to racemic **G** by bromination of the main product. When subjecting it to ITC and X-ray crystal structure analysis, we made the completely unexpected and stunning observation that for racemic **G** both enantiomers were found in the binding pocket of PhzA/B simultaneously. We have carefully investigated this case, which is the first example in which the textbook notion of eutomer vs. distomer behavior of racemic drugs is not valid, since each enantiomer of Maverick (**G**) binds more strongly to the protein than its racemate.[3]

After the move of our laboratory to Graz, Jakob Pletz continued the work of Matthias Mentel, and tried to prepare even more affine ligands of PhzA/B and analogues of Maverick, exploring if other molecules would also exhibit the amazing phenotype of simultaneous binding of racemic

Biographical sketches

Jakob Pletz was born in Oberpullendorf (Austria) in 1987. He obtained his B.Sc. in chemistry and his M.Sc. in technical chemistry from the Graz University of Technology and the University of Graz. After an Erasmus exchange stay in the laboratory of Professor John K. Gallos at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), he carried out his Diploma thesis project under the guidance of Professor Rolf Breinbauer. Since 2012 he has been working on his Ph.D. thesis on the synthesis and biological characterization of analogues of amine-containing natural products under the guidance of Professor Rolf Breinbauer at the Graz University of Technology (Austria).

Bernhard Berg was born in San Francisco (USA) in 1990. He finished his primary education (elementary and high school) in Linz (Austria) and began studying chemistry at the Graz University of Technology in 2011, accomplishing his B.Sc. thesis under the supervision of Prof. Rolf Breinbauer in early 2015. In the summer 2015 he worked in the laboratory of Nancy I. Totah, in the Department of Chemistry at Syracuse University (USA). Since 2015 he has been pursuing his Master studies in technical chemistry at the Graz University of Technology (Austria).

Rolf Breinbauer was born in Schärding (Austria) in 1970. He studied chemistry at the Vienna University of Technology and the University of Heidelberg, carrying out his Diploma thesis project under the guidance of Professor Günter Helmchen. From 1995 to 1998, he worked as a Ph.D. student under the guidance of Professor Manfred T. Reetz at the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung in Mülheim/Ruhr (Germany). After working as a postdoctoral researcher with an Erwin-Schrödinger fellowship in the laboratory of Professor Eric N. Jacobsen (Harvard University, USA), he moved in 2000 to Dortmund (Germany) as a group leader at the Max-Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology (department head: Professor Herbert Waldmann) and as a junior professor at the University of Dortmund. From 2005 to 2007 he was a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Leipzig. Since 2007, he has been a full professor of organic chemistry at the Graz University of Technology in Graz (Austria). His research interests encompass the design and synthesis of tool compounds for chemical biology and the development of new synthetic methods.
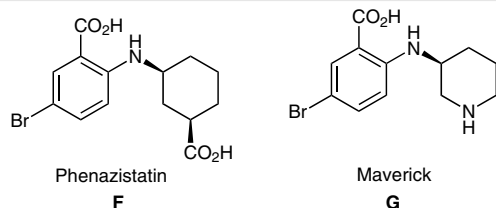
Figure 1 Structures of Phenazistatin (**F**) and Maverick (**G**)

molecules in a single binding pocket. Jakob soon recognized that a major limitation in his work was the inefficiency of the Ullmann–Goldberg reaction for the C–N bond formation.[4] Despite considerable efforts and some success in improving the yields for some substrates by optimizing the reaction conditions, no reliable protocol could be found which was suitable for the diverse and highly functionalized substrates of our ligands. Jakob suggested a different route in which the C–N bond is formed with the alkyl carbon by using reductive amination as the strategic transformation, which should lead to higher yields and have the additional advantage that the required ketone substrates are

more available than the alicyclic amines necessary for the Ullmann–Goldberg route (Figure 2). The lack of control of the resulting stereogenic center should not bother us at this early stage of biological testing with PhzA/B, because we have learned from the studies with Maverick (**G**) that racemic ligands could offer interesting surprises with this particular protein. First we had to develop more efficient protocols for reductive aminations, as we soon noticed that all established protocols proved to be inefficient for our electron-deficient aniline substrates. In this article we want to report three methods, which proved to be very valuable for this type of substrates.
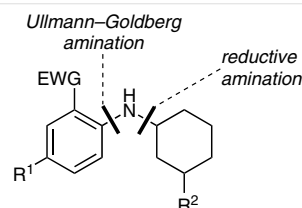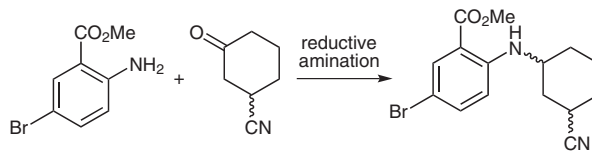

Figure 2 Strategic disconnections for the synthesis of PhzA ligands

Table 1 Screening of Reductive Amination Methods

Entry	Conditions	Ref.	Product formation
1	1. toluene, 4 Å MS, reflux, Dean–Stark, 4 d 2. NaBH$_4$ (3 equiv), MeOH, N$_2$, 20 °C, 6 h	14	–
2	1. PTSA, toluene, reflux, Dean–Stark, 2 d 2. NaBH$_4$ (3 equiv), MeOH, N$_2$, 20 °C, 6 h	–	–
3	TiCl$_4$ (0.5 equiv), Et$_3$N (2.0 equiv), CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 20 °C, 4 d	15	–
4	1. Ti(O^{i}Pr)$_4$, neat, 20 °C, 1 h 2. NaCNBH$_3$ (0.55 equiv), EtOH, 20 °C, 3 d	16	–
5	1. Ti(O^{i}Pr)$_4$ (1.25 equiv), neat, 40 °C, 16 h 2. NaBH$_4$ (2 equiv), 0–20 °C, EtOH, 6 h	17	–
6	1. Ti(O^{i}Pr)$_4$ (1.25 equiv), neat, 40 °C, 16 h 2. PMHS (2 equiv), 0–20 °C, THF, 6 h	18	–
9	NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (2 equiv), HC(OEt)$_3$–CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 1:1, 20 °C, 23 h	19	–
10	1. Na$_2$SO$_4$ (10 equiv), AcOH, 20 °C, 40 min 2. NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (3 equiv), 20 °C, 24 h	20	0
11	NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (2 equiv), AcOH (1 equiv), toluene, 20 °C, 6 d	21	0
12	NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (2.8 equiv), AcOH (5 equiv), DCE, 20 °C, 30 h[b]	5b	+
13	Hantzsch ester (1.5 equiv), thiourea (0.1 equiv), 4 Å MS, toluene, 50 °C, 20 h	7b	+
14	1.5 equiv BH$_3$·THF, CH$_2$Cl$_2$–AcOH, 2:1, 20 °C, 3 d	9b	++

[a] Key: – no conversion, 0 moderate conversion, + good conversion, ++ full conversion.
[b] Methyl 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carboxylate was used as the ketone.

Results and Discussion

Reductive amination is one of the most frequently used synthetic reactions for the production of secondary (and tertiary) amines.[5–9] The advantages over other transformations are the ready accessibility of the starting materials and its selectivity avoiding overalkylation. A comprehensive review has been published in 2002,[10] in which the reaction with sterically congested ketone substrates and the reductive amination with electron-deficient amine nucleophiles have been defined as the remaining challenges in this field. The problematic step is often the initial imine formation due to the unreactive nature of either the carbonyl or amine component. Specific examples which have been described as test cases are the reaction of 2,6-disubstituted anilines with aldehydes[11] and aliphatic or alicyclic ketones,[5b] of camphor with benzylamine,[5b] and the reaction of a β-keto ester with 2-fluoroaniline[12] (modest yield). Several methods which perform well specifically for the reductive amination of electron-deficient amines have been published.[5b,c,e–g,13] We tested several of these methods for the reductive amination of methyl 2-amino-5-bromobenzoate and 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carbonitrile as model substrates (Table 1).[5b,7b,9b,14–21] Most reactions failed or gave only low conversions of the starting materials due to the unreactive nature of the aromatic amine.

The methods which worked best for the synthesis of the phenazistatin A derivative in these initial screenings (Table 1) were investigated in detail. For further optimization the model reaction was simplified to methyl anthranilate and cyclohexanone (commercially available) and the reactions were repeated using the same procedures as described in Table 1 (entries 12–14). The results are listed in Table 2 (vide infra). The well-established NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (STAB) method by Abdel-Magid,[5b] led to incomplete conversion of methyl anthranilate to the product **4** even after one week of reaction time (Table 2, entry 1). The transfer hydrogenation approach by Menche using the Hantzsch ester as hydride source and a thiourea organocatalyst,[7b] resulted in full conversion after six days at 50 °C (entry 2). The third method was the reductive amination using BH$_3$·THF[9b] (or BH$_3$·SMe$_2$)[9c] in CH$_2$Cl$_2$/AcOH at room temperature, which has been described to enable the reaction of the very electron-deficient 2-nitroaniline with acetone (3 equiv) in excellent yields within 16–20 hours. However, our attempts to apply the non-optimized method for our model reaction led only to incomplete conversion. We observed that prolonged reaction time and increased carbonyl loading did not improve conversion, but increasing the amount of reductant ultimately led to full conversion. In our experience, a minimum of three equivalents of BH$_3$·THF is needed to ensure full conversion for most substrates. When exploring the scope of this useful transformation with other sub-strates, optimized method A (1.5 equiv carbonyl substrate, 3 equiv BH$_3$·THF) proved to be a reliable and versatile method for the reductive amination of a wide range of electron-deficient amines (entry 3). The detailed substrate scope will be described in the following sections.

Table 2 Comparison of the Reported Reductive Amination Methods with Established Protocols
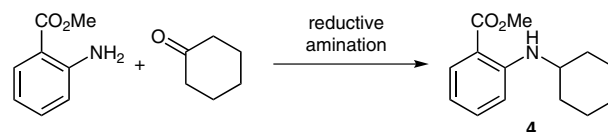
Entry	Method	Temp	Time	Conversion (%)	Yield (%)[a]
1	NaBH(OAc)$_3$[b]	20 °C	7 d	77[c]	73
2	Hantzsch ester[d]	50 °C	6 d	100	91
3	A[e]	0 °C	3 h	100	80
4	B[f]	0 °C	15 min	100	97
5	C[g]	0 °C	15 min	100	99

[a] Isolated yield.
[b] According to Abdel-Magid et al.:[5b] aniline (1.0 equiv), ketone (2.0 equiv), AcOH (5 equiv), NaBH(OAc)$_3$ (2.8 equiv), DCE, 20 °C.
[c] n-Nonane was used as an internal standard.
[d] According to Menche et al.:[7b] aniline (1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (1.5 equiv), Hantzsch ester (1.5 equiv), thiourea (0.1 equiv), 5 Å MS, toluene, 50 °C.
[e] Method A: amine (1.00 mmol), cyclohexanone (1.50 mmol), BH$_3$·THF (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), CH$_2$Cl$_2$–AcOH, 2:1, 0–20 °C.
[f] Method B: amine (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (330 μmol, 1.1 equiv), TMSCl (750 μmol, 2.5 equiv), BH$_3$·THF (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), DMF, 0 °C.
[g] Method C: amine (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (330 μmol, 1.1 equiv), TMSCl (750 μmol, 2.5 equiv), NaBH$_4$ (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), DMF, 0 °C.

When applying method A for the synthesis of various Phenazistatin derivatives using substituted arylamines and cyclohexanones, we sometimes obtained lower yields and noticed the formation of two byproducts, namely N-acetylated and N-ethylated aniline substrate (Scheme 2). Such byproducts have been previously reported for the NaBH(OAc)$_3$ method by Abdel-Magid[5b] when AcOH was used as Lewis acid. In fact, protocols for the N-ethylation of amines using NaBH$_4$ in neat carboxylic acid have been reported in the literature.[22–24] It is suggested that the product originates from a stepwise process in which acetic acid is reduced to acetaldehyde (or an acetaldehyde equivalent), which reacts with the amine to form an iminium ion. Reduction of this imine results in the ethylamine product.[22] Marchini could isolate the N-acetylated product by heating the NaBH$_4$-carboxylic acid mixture before addition of the amine.[24] During the synthesis of Phenazistatin derivative **1**, we observed the formation of these byproducts (**2** and **3**), which accounted for considerable consumption of the substrate arylamine (Scheme 2).
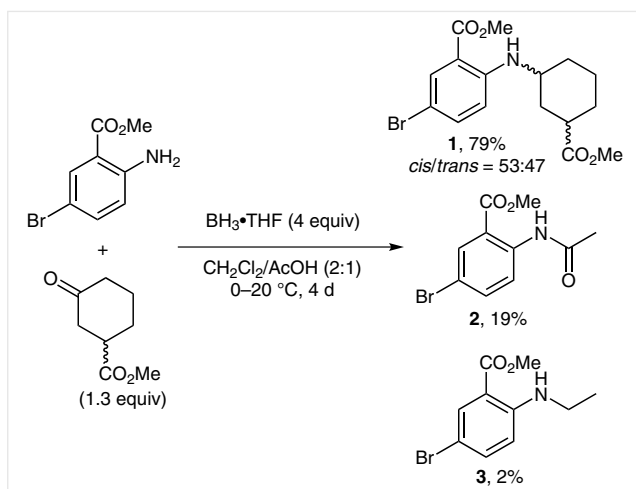
Scheme 2 Observed byproduct formation in the synthesis of a Phenazistatin derivative (percentages refer to GC-MS peak areas)

We reasoned that by using a different acid additive we might suppress these side reactions and increase the yields. Full conversion was obtained with the acids (9 equiv each) TFA (12 h), MeSO$_3$H (3 d), malonic acid (13 h), and phenylphosphonic acid (13 h) and the activating agent TMSCl (12 h) for the reaction of 2-aminobenzonitrile and 4-*tert*-butylcyclohexanone in rates similar to AcOH (12 h). Among these reagents, TMSCl proved to be the most attractive substitute for AcOH due to its availability, low molecular weight, low price, and, most importantly, by its lack of the formation of the common byproducts mentioned above for AcOH. TMSCl has been used extensively in combination with boranes for the reduction of carbonyl substrates, along with borohydrides mainly for the in situ generation of borane.[25] Blacklock had used TMSCl as an additive for the reductive alkylation of ureas, thioureas, and carbamates (with benzaldehydes, NaBH$_4$ in AcOH).[26] By screening different solvents we observed that DMF increases the reaction rate significantly and lowers the extent of carbonyl reduction. Optimization of the reaction parameters resulted in optimized method B (1.1 equiv carbonyl substrate, 2.5 equiv TMSCl, 1.0 equiv BH$_3$·THF), which gave 97% yield in 15 minutes at 0 °C for the model reaction (Table 2, entry 4). It is noteworthy that the reaction proceeds to completion within minutes at 0 °C. An amount of 1.0 equiv of BH$_3$·THF sufficed for all tested reactions, but full conversion was detected for the reaction of 2-aminobenzonitrile with cyclohexanone even when only 0.5 equiv BH$_3$·THF was used. The reductive amination was carried out at high concentrations of the arylamine in DMF (1.5 M) but was found to perform equally well in higher dilutions (0.5 M). We kept the solvent volume at a minimum to facilitate the removal of DMF during workup.

One parameter which requires special attention is the reducing agent borane–tetrahydrofuran complex. BH$_3$·THF is commonly used as a 1.0 M solution in THF (stabilized with NaBH$_4$),[27] which is stable when stored and used at 0

°C, but loses hydride activity when kept at room temperature, creating a stability and safety concern.[27,28] While BH$_3$·THF can be conveniently handled in a research laboratory, it would be desirable to substitute BH$_3$·THF by a more inexpensive and inherently safer reducing agent for large-scale applications.[28d,e] We conducted a screening of commonly employed hydride sources in combination with TMSCl as activating agent (Table 3).

Table 3 Test Reaction with Different Hydride Sources
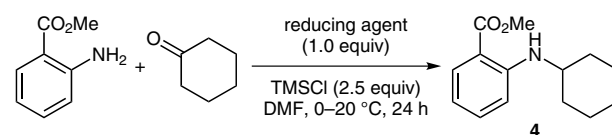
Entry	Reducing agent	Conversion (%)[a]	Yield (%)[b]	Price [€/mol H][c]
1	PMHS	0	–	14
2	Et$_3$SiH	0	–	108
3	PhSiH$_3$	100	84	218
4	NaBH$_4$	100	88	6
5	NaBH(OAc)$_3$	92	66	207
6	BH$_3$·THF[d]	100	90	64
7	pinacolborane	100	91	350
8	9-BBN[e]	88	81	496
9	catecholborane	77	73	727

[a] 1,2-DME was used as an internal standard.
[b] Isolated yield.
[c] Prices from Sigma-Aldrich catalog November 2015.
[d] 1.0 M solution in THF.
[e] 0.5 M solution in THF.

PMHS and Et$_3$SiH did not react under the reaction conditions of method B (Table 3, entries 1 and 2), while PhSiH$_3$ and the boron-based reductants resulted in good to high conversions and yields (entries 3–9). To our delight, NaBH$_4$ performed equally well compared to BH$_3$·THF in the reductive amination (entries 4 and 6), allowing us to define the cost-efficient method C (TMSCl, NaBH$_4$, DMF, 0 °C), as the price per hydride equivalent of NaBH$_4$ is significantly lower than for any other active reductant, with BH$_3$·THF the second least expensive one. In order to explore the substrate scope, we conducted a series of experiments using method C. The results are summarized in the following section. In Table 2 we have compared the performance of the best established procedures in the literature with our new methods A–C for the same test substrate. Methods A–C deliver product **4** in much shorter reaction times and lower reaction temperatures.

So far, all reported reactions have been performed in an anhydrous solvent under inert conditions. To test the sensitivity of method C towards moisture and air, we performed the reaction of methyl anthranilate with cyclohexanone in an open flask using synthesis-grade (99.8%) DMF. We were

pleased to find that the same yield as for the inert conditions was isolated after 15 minutes reaction time at 0 °C (see below, Table 4, entry 7C*).

On the basis of previous studies by Abdel-Magid,[5a] Borch,[29a] Roth,[6e] and Schellenberg,[29b] we propose a possible mechanism outlined in Scheme 3, suggesting a dual role of TMSCl. First, TMSCl activates the carbonyl substrate for nucleophilic attack by the amine. Second, it shifts the equilibrium to the imine by serving as a dehydrating agent,[25g] which also provides the acid required for the formation of the iminium ion, which is the ultimate substrate for hydride attack (Scheme 3).

Scheme 3 Proposed mechanism of the reductive amination process
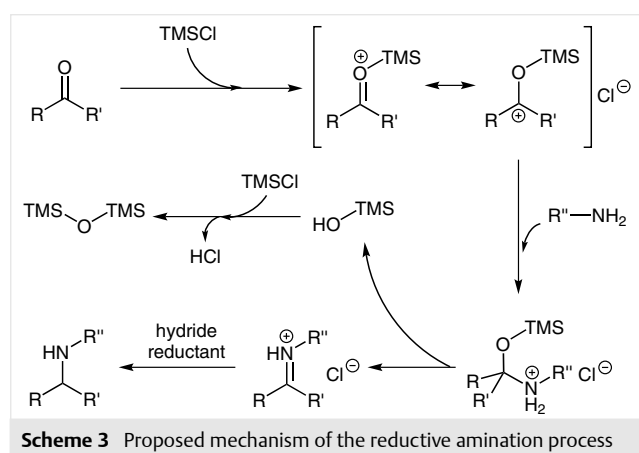
Reductive Amination with Weakly Nucleophilic Amines

The described methods are very efficient in reductive amination reactions with weakly basic and nonbasic amines. The results in Table 4 show that a wide range of arylamines can successfully react in the reductive amination with cyclohexanone. The reductive amination following the $BH_3 \cdot THF/AcOH/CH_2Cl_2$ method (Table 4, method A) with reaction times from 3–41 hours is generally slower than the $BH_3 \cdot THF/TMSCl/DMF$ method (Table 4, method B) and the $NaBH_4/TMSCl/DMF$ method (Table 4, method C), which typically require 10–230 minutes. It is noteworthy that method B and method C proceed at 0 °C within minutes while method A and other described methods for electron-deficient aromatic amines require room or even higher temperatures and reaction times of hours to days. We found that method B ($BH_3 \cdot THF/DMF$) and method C ($NaBH_4/DMF$) yielded comparable results for most of the aromatic amines tested; however, method B ($BH_3 \cdot THF/DMF$) was chosen for the study of reactive carbonyl groups in the next section (see below, Table 5), as the handling of the liquid $BH_3 \cdot THF$ solution was more suitable for parallel operations on a small scale. While there is a significant difference between method A and method B/method C in matters of
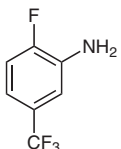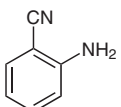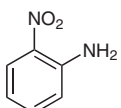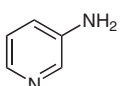
reactivity and reaction rate, we observed that the selectivity and tolerance for functional groups seem to be conserved in most cases.

Table 4 Investigation of the Aniline Substrate Scope for Reductive Amination by Methods A, B, and C

method A: amine (1 equiv), ketone (1.5 equiv), BH₃•THF (3 equiv), CH₂Cl₂/AcOH[a]
method B: amine (1 equiv), ketone (1.1 equiv), TMSCl (2.5 equiv), BH₃·THF (1 equiv), DMF[b]
method C: amine (1 equiv), ketone (1.1 equiv), TMSCl (2.5 equiv), NaBH₄ (1 equiv), DMF[c]

Amine	Product	Entry	Method[a–c]	Time	Yield (%)[d]
OMe, NH₂	5	1A	A	21 h	81
		1B	B	15 min	85
		1C	C	15 min	90
iPr, NH₂, iPr	6	2B	B	140 min	0
		2B*	B[e,f]	230 min	66[g]
		2C	C	15 min	0
NH₂	7	3A	A	19 h	77
		3B	B	15 min	77
		3C	C	15 min	70
EtO–P=O, OEt, NH₂	8	4A	A	3 h	89
		4B	B	10 min	72
Cl, NH₂, Cl	9	5A	A	6 d	(18[h])
		5B	B[f]	18 min	90
		5C	C	15 min	87
CO₂H, NH₂	10	6B	B	10 min	91
		6C	C	15 min	91
CO₂Me, NH₂	4	7A	A	3 h	80
		7B	B	15 min	97
		7C	C	15 min	99
		7C*	C[i]	15 min	99
O, NH₂	11	8A	A	21 h	29
		8B	B	15 min	79

1307

Synthesis J. Pletz et al. THIEME OPEN ACCESS Feature

Table 4 (continued)

Amine	Product	Entry	Method[a–c]	Time	Yield (%)[d]
F, NH₂, CF₃ (structure)	**12**	9A / 9B / 9C	A / B / C	3 h / 10 min / 15 min	72 / 68 / 67
CN, NH₂ (structure)	**13**	10A / 10B / 10C	A / B / C	15 h / 18 min / 15 min	94 / 94 / 91
NO₂, NH₂ (structure)	**14**	11A / 11B / 11C	A / B / C	21 h / 30 min / 30 min	74 / 94 / 78
NH₂, N (pyridine structure)	**15**	12B	B	11 min	84

[a] Method A: amine (1.00 mmol), cyclohexanone (1.50 mmol), BH₃·THF (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), CH₂Cl₂–AcOH, 2:1, 0–20 °C.
[b] Method B: amine (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (330 μmol, 1.1 equiv), TMSCl (750 μmol, 2.5 equiv), BH₃·THF (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), DMF, 0 °C.
[c] Method C: amine (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (330 μmol, 1.1 equiv), TMSCl (750 μmol, 2.5 equiv), NaBH₄ (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), DMF, 0 °C.
[d] Isolated yield.
[e] TMSOTf was used instead of TMSCl.
[f] Cyclohexanone (1.5 equiv) was used.
[g] Carbonyl reduction was observed.
[h] Conversion of the starting material (*n*-nonane used as internal standard).
[i] Performed in an open flask using synthesis-grade DMF (99.8%).

One case in which the selectivity differs between method A and method B is found in the reductive amination of 4-acetylaniline. Method A gives the product **11** in low yields (Table 4, entry 8A), due to a large amount of self-condensation of the aromatic ketone with the aniline, whereas with method B the aromatic ketone moiety remains untouched and the product **11** is obtained in good yield (entry 8B).

The described methods give good yields for electron-rich primary anilines and a wide range of electron-deficient primary aromatic amines. The reactions are convenient and simple and show a high degree of tolerance for a variety of functional groups including acetyl, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, diethylphosphonyl, halo, and nitro groups.

Substitution at the *ortho* position of aromatic amines did not seem to have any detrimental effect on the reaction rate, and high to excellent yields were obtained (Table 4). As mentioned above, the reductive amination of 2,6-disubstituted anilines has been described in the literature as a challenging substrate combination.[5b,10] The sterically hindered 2,6-dichloroaniline reacted very slowly by method A (entry 5A, 18% conversion after 6 d), but to our delight reacted smoothly by method B and method C, giving product **9** in

90% and 87% yield (entries 5B and 5C), respectively. The most sterically hindered aniline used, 2,6-diisopropylaniline, failed to undergo reaction with cyclohexanone by both methods B and C (entries 2B and 2C). However, the reactivity of method B could be enhanced by the use of TMSOTf instead of TMSCl (entry 2B*). The reaction proceeded very slowly (230 min) but gave the product **6** in 66% yield.

The very electron-deficient 2-nitroaniline gave product **14** in 94% yield after 30 min at 0 °C by method B (Table 4, entry 11B). Abdel-Magid[5b] could only obtain 30% conversion to the desired product after 6 days at room temperature when using the optimized NaBH(OAc)₃ conditions. Anthranilic acid reacted well by methods A and B to give product **10** in 91% yield (entries 6B and 6C). Interestingly, the heterocyclic arylamine 3-aminopyridine reacted to form the reductive amination product **15** in 84% yield by method B (entry 12B).

## Reductive Amination of Aldehydes and Ketones

The results in Table 5 show that the reductive amination of a variety of aromatic aldehydes as well as cyclic and acyclic ketones with the electron-deficient anilines **H** and **I** was successfully accomplished under the standard conditions (methods A and B) and furnished the products in moderate to excellent yields. The scope of the reaction includes different aromatic aldehydes (entries 1A, 1B, and 2B), cinnamic aldehyde (entry 3B), alicyclic ketones (entries 5A, 8A, 9A, and 4B–9B), 2-adamantanone (entries 9A and 9B), saturated acyclic ketones (entries 10A, 11A, 11B, 12B, and 13B*), methyl 3-oxobutanoate (entry 12B), acetophenone (entries 16A and 16B*) and 1,1-diethoxycyclohexane (entry 18B). For the same primary aromatic amine the rate of the reaction was dependent on the steric and electronic factors associated with the carbonyl substrates as well as with the reductive amination protocol used. The substrates reacted consistently more sluggishly when using the BH₃·THF in CH₂Cl₂/AcOH system (method A) as compared to the BH₃·THF/TMSCl/DMF system (method B).

Aldehydes and ketones are known to be reduced by BH₃·THF[30] and NaBH₄,[31] and thus carbonyl reduction could be expected to compete with the reductive amination process.[5b] However, the chosen reaction conditions were so selective that the reductive amination with aldehydes and ketones worked efficiently and resulted in clean reactions in most cases. Cases in which carbonyl reduction was detected involved the sterically hindered 2-*tert*-butylcyclohexan-1-one in both methods A and B (Table 5, entries 14A, 14B, and 14B*), 2,6-diisopropylaniline in the modified method B (Table 4, entry 2B*), and acetophenone when using the modified method B (Table 5, entry 16B*).

Of all the carbonyl substrates used in this study, the alicyclic ketones were the most reactive and gave very good to excellent yields (Table 5, entries 5A–9A and 4B–9B). Aldehydes gave somewhat lower yields with comparable reac-

tion times (entries 1A and 1B–3B), but, in contrast to established silane-based methods, we did not observe any over-alkylated products. *trans*-Cinnamaldehyde reacted smoothly with methyl anthranilate providing **19** in 81% yield with no trace of C=C reduction product (entry 3B), which is a common side reaction with borane reagents. Saturated acyclic ketones reacted more sluggishly and gave lower yields (entries 10A, 11A, 11B, and 13B*). The β-keto ester methyl 3-oxobutanoate (entry 12B) reacted slowly and gave product **29** in 67% yield. The acid-labile ketone 1-Boc-3-piperidone reacted well with methyl anthranilate by method A, producing **23** (66%) (entry 8A), whereas method C yielded a complex mixture. Method A might be the better method for the coupling of more acid-sensitive carbonyl and arylamine substrates.

Table 5 Investigation of the Carbonyl Substrate Scope for Reductive Amination by Methods A and B
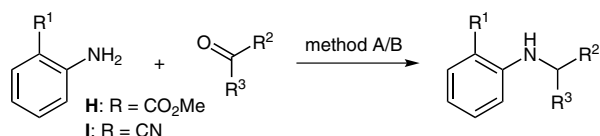
H: R = CO₂Me
I: R = CN

method A: amine (1 equiv), ketone (1.5 equiv), BH₃•THF (3 equiv), CH₂Cl₂/AcOHᵃ
method B: amine (1 equiv), ketone (1.1 equiv), TMSCl (2.5 equiv), BH₃·THF (1 equiv), DMFᵇ

Carbonyl reagent	Entry	Amine	Method[a,b]	Time	Product	Yield (%)[c]
	1A	**I**	A	15 h	**16**	80
	1B	**H**	B	20 min	**17**	85
	2B	**H**	B	10 min	**18**	84
	3B	**H**	B	10 min	**19**	81
	4B	**H**	B	15 min	**20**	96
	5A	**I**	A	15 h	**13**	94
	5B	**H**	B	15 min	**4**	97
	6B	**H**	B	15 min	**21**	91
	7B	**H**	B	15 min	**22**	96

Table 5 (continued)

Carbonyl reagent	Entry	Amine	Method[a,b]	Time	Product	Yield (%)[c]
	8A	**H**	A	44 h	**23**	66
	9A	**I**	A	41 h	**24**	80
	9B	**H**	B	24 min	**25**	94
	10A	**I**	A	39 h	**26**	80
	11A	**I**	A	39 h	**27**	69
	11B	**H**	B	23 h	**28**	43
	12B	**H**	B	6 h	**29**	67
	13B	**H**	B	17 h	–	0
	13B*	**H**	B[d,e]	20 h	**30**	50
	14A	**I**	A	24 h	–	0[f]
	14B	**H**	B	17 h	–	0[f]
	14B*	**H**	B[d,e]	18 h	–	traces[f,g]
	15A	**I**	A	41 h	–	0
	15B	**H**	B	23 h	–	0
	15B*	**H**	B[d,e]	18 h	–	traces[g]
	16A	**I**	A	39 h	**31**	70
	16B	**H**	B	23 h	–	0
	16B*	**H**	B[d,e]	23 h	**32**	87[f]
	17A	**I**	A	4 d	–	0
	17B	**H**	B	17 h	–	0
	17B*	**H**	B[d,e]	20 h	–	traces[g]
	18B	**H**	B	19 min	**4**	71[h]

ᵃ Method A: amine (1.0 mmol), cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol), BH₃·THF (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), CH₂Cl₂–AcOH, 2:1, 0–20 °C.
ᵇ Method B: amine (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), cyclohexanone (330 μmol, 1.1 equiv), TMSCl (750 μmol, 2.5 equiv), BH₃·THF (300 μmol, 1.0 equiv), DMF, 0 °C.
ᶜ Isolated yield.
ᵈ TMSOTf was used instead of TMSCl.
ᵉ Cyclohexanone (1.5 equiv) was used.
ᶠ Carbonyl reduction was observed.
ᵍ Product mass was identified by GC-MS (<5%).
ʰ Methyl 2-(cyclohexylamino)benzoate was obtained as the product.

▼

1309

Synthesis   J. Pletz et al.   THIEME OPEN ACCESS   **Feature**

Reductive Amination of Aromatic and Sterically Hindered Ketones

The least reactive ketones were aromatic and sterically hindered alicyclic and aliphatic ketones. It is noteworthy that acetophenone reacted smoothly by method A to give the desired product **31** in good yield, whereas the unmodified method B failed (Table 5, entries 16A and 16B). For other unreactive carbonyl substrates, the arylamine substrate was quantitatively acetylated to the byproduct N-(2-cyanophenyl)acetamide, as judged by GC-MS (entries 14A, 15A, and 17A). The formation of small amounts of these byproducts was also described for some slow reactions when using the established NaBH(OAc)$_3$-protocol.[5b] Benzophenone, 2-(tert-butyl)cyclohexan-1-one, and (+)-camphor failed to react with 2-aminobenzonitrile by method A (entries 14A, 15A, and 17A). These substrates as well as acetophenone and benzophenone could also not be converted in the reaction with methyl anthranilate by method B (entries 13B, 14B, 15B, 16B, and 17B).

However, the reactivity could be enhanced by using the more reactive TMSOTf instead of TMSCl as demonstrated for the reaction with pinacolone and acetophenone giving the products **30** and **32** in good yields (entries 13B* and 16B*) after reaction times of 20 and 23 hours, respectively. However, even with the TMSOTf-modified method B, the other challenging ketones hardly reacted with methyl anthranilate, and only traces (<5%) of the desired products were detected by GC-MS (entries 14B*, 15B*, and 17B*) after 18–23 hours. Interestingly, method B can also be used for the reductive amination with ketals, as exemplified for 1,1-diethoxycyclohexane as a substrate (entry 18B).

To demonstrate the scalability of method B, the gram-scale synthesis of the Phenazistatin derivatives **33** and **34** (Figure 3) was performed, which delivered **33** and **34** in 96% and 97% yield, respectively, in the short reaction times observed for the model reactions.
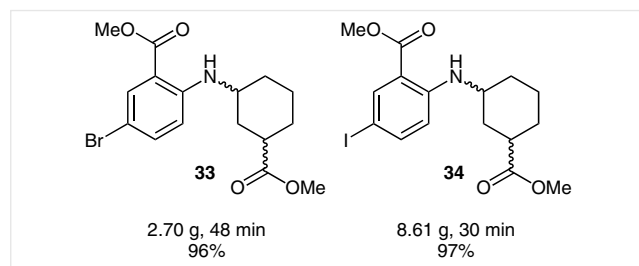

Figure 3 Gram-scale synthesis of Phenazistatin derivatives using method B

Summary and Conclusions

In conclusion, we have established three new methods which have proven useful for the reductive amination of electron-deficient anilines with ketones. Method A

(BH$_3$·THF/AcOH/CH$_2$Cl$_2$) is distinguished by inexpensive reagents and simple workup, but requires longer reaction times and gives rise to acetylated byproducts for substrate combinations with slow imine formation. For these substrates, the more reactive activating agent TMSCl is recommended, and both method B (BH$_3$·THF/TMSCl/DMF) as well as method C (NaBH$_4$/TMSCl/DMF) offer powerful reagent combinations, which result in full conversions for most substrates within 10–25 minutes. In case these methods fail, the use of TMSOTf offers an additional possibility to make sterically more congested substrates accessible. Together, these methods have expanded the scope of the reductive amination reaction, which will become an even more powerful tool for the organic synthesis of substituted amines.

TMSCl (98%) and BH$_3$·THF (1.0 M solution in THF) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and anhyd DMF was purchased from Alfa Aesar and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves in an amber 1000 mL Schlenk bottle. All experiments were carried out by using established Schlenk techniques. Analytical TLC was carried out on Merck TLC silica gel 60 F254 aluminum sheets and spots were visualized by UV light (λ = 254 and/or 366 nm) or by staining with cerium ammonium molybdate [CAM; 2.0 g Ce(SO$_4$)$_2$, 50.0 g (NH$_4$)$_6$Mo$_7$O$_{24}$, and 50 mL concd H$_2$SO$_4$ in 400 mL H$_2$O] or potassium permanganate (0.3 g KMnO$_4$, 20 g K$_2$CO$_3$, and 5 mL 5% aq NaOH in 300 mL H$_2$O). Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel 0.035–0.070 mm, 60 Å (Acros Organics). ATR-IR spectra were recorded using an ALPHA FT-IR spectrometer (Bruker; Billerica, MA, USA). ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 300 spectrometer (^{1}H: 300.36 MHz; ^{13}C: 75.53 MHz) and ^{19}F (282.47 MHz) and ^{31}P (121.58 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian INOVA 300 spectrometer and referenced versus TMS using the internal ^{2}H-lock signal of the solvent.

Method A: Reductive Amination of Arylamines and Aldehydes/Ketones with BH$_3$·THF in CH$_2$Cl$_2$/AcOH; General Procedure A

A dry 20 mL Schlenk tube with magnetic stirring bar was charged consecutively with arylamine (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), carbonyl substrate (1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), anhyd CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (2.0 mL), and glacial AcOH (1.0 mL) in a N$_2$ counter-stream. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, the glass stopper was replaced by a rubber septum, and a 1.0 M solution of BH$_3$·THF in THF (3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3 equiv) was added slowly by syringe over a period of 10–20 min. The flask was sealed with a glass stopper and the mixture was kept stirring in the thawing ice bath until full conversion was detected by TLC. The vigorously stirred mixture was cooled to 0 °C again and sat. NaHCO$_3$ (5 mL) was added carefully (CO$_2$ evolution!) followed by EtOAc (10 mL). The two-phase mixture was kept stirring until the gas evolution had ceased (typically 20–60 min). The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$, the drying agent was removed by filtration, and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The crude product (adsorbed onto Celite) was purified by chromatography (silica gel, cyclohexane–EtOAc, gradient).

Method B: Reductive Amination of Arylamines and Aldehydes/Ketones with BH₃·THF and TMSCl in DMF; General Procedure B

A dry 20 mL Schlenk tube with magnetic stirring bar was charged consecutively with arylamine (300 µmol, 1.0 equiv), carbonyl substrate (330 µmol, 1.1 equiv), anhyd DMF (200 µL), and TMSCl (96.8 µL, 750 µmol, 2.5 equiv) in a N_2 counter-stream. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, the glass stopper was replaced by a rubber septum, and a 1.0 M solution of BH₃·THF in THF (300 µL, 300 µmol, 1.0 equiv) was added slowly with a syringe over a period of 10–20 min. The flask was sealed with a glass stopper and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at 0 °C until full conversion was detected by TLC. The vigorously stirred reaction mixture was treated with H_2O (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. EtOAc (5 mL) was added followed by sat. Na_2CO_3 solution (2.5 mL) (CO_2 evolution!). The two-phase mixture was kept stirring until the gas evolution had ceased (typically 20–60 min). In case the aqueous phase was turbid, small amounts of H_2O were added to provide a clear aqueous phase. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 8 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4, the drying agent was removed by filtration, and the solvents were removed under vacuum. The crude product (adsorbed onto Celite) was purified by chromatography (silica gel, cyclohexane–EtOAc, gradient).

Method C: Reductive Amination of Arylamines and Aldehydes/Ketones with NaBH₄ and TMSCl in DMF; General Procedure C

A dry 20 mL Schlenk tube with magnetic stirring bar was charged consecutively with arylamine (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), carbonyl substrate (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), anhyd DMF (670 µL), and TMSCl (323 µL, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in a N_2 counter-stream. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and NaBH₄ (39.0 mg, 1.0 µmol, 1.0 equiv) was added in one portion. The flask was sealed with a glass stopper and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at 0 °C until full conversion was detected by TLC. The vigorously stirred reaction mixture was treated with sat. NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL) (CO_2 evolution!) followed by EtOAc (5 mL). The two-phase mixture was kept stirring until the gas evolution had ceased (typically 20–60 min). In case the aqueous phase was turbid, small amounts of H_2O were added to provide a clear aqueous phase. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4, the drying agent was removed by filtration, and the solvents were removed by using a rotary evaporator. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the crude product (adsorbed onto Celite) was purified by chromatography (silica gel, cyclohexane–EtOAc, gradient).

Methyl 2-(Cyclohexylamino)benzoate (4)

Prepared according to general procedure A from methyl anthranilate (131 µL, 1.0 mmol); 3 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 150:1, size: 11 × 2.8 cm); yield: 186 mg (797 µmol, 80%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 200:1, 150:1, size: 7.5 × 2.2 cm); yield: 68.2 mg (292 µmol, 97%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and 1,1-diethoxycyclohexane (64.5 µL, 330 µmol); 19 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 150:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 49.4 mg (212 µmol, 71%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 200:1, 150:1, size: 7.5 × 2.2 cm); yield: 69.1 mg (296 µmol, 99%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

R_f = 0.67 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 8:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange).

IR (ATR): 3346, 2928, 2852, 1680, 1606, 1579, 1516, 1436, 1328, 1249, 1223, 1187, 1161, 1137, 1107, 1075, 1045, 745, 702, 565, 525 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.93–7.84 (m, 1 H, ArH), 7.82–7.69 (m, 1 H, NH), 7.36–7.21 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.74–6.63 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.56–6.45 (m, 1 H, ArH), 3.84 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.47–3.30 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.10–1.94 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.84–1.69 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.67–1.53 (m, 1 H, CH₂), 1.49–1.20 (m, 5 H, CH₂).

¹³C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 169.3 (C_q), 150.5 (C_q), 134.6, 132.0, 114.0, 111.8, 109.6 (C_q), 51.5, 50.6, 33.0, 26.0, 24.8.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]⁺ calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}NO_2$: 233.1416; found: 233.1424.

N-Cyclohexyl-2-methoxyaniline (5)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-methoxyaniline (114 µL, 1.00 mmol); 21 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 40:1, size: 11 × 2.8 cm); yield: 166 mg (810 µmol, 81%); amorphous, colorless solid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2-methoxyaniline (34.2 µL, 300 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 100:1, size: 14 × 0.8 cm); yield: 52.6 mg (256 µmol, 85%); amorphous, colorless solid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from 2-methoxyaniline (114 µL, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 100:1, 50:1, size: 20 × 1.4 cm); yield: 184 mg (902 µmol, 90%); amorphous, colorless solid; mp 32 °C; R_f = 0.31 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: purple).

IR (ATR): 3422, 2919, 2849, 1600, 1507, 1449, 1252, 1234, 1219, 1125, 1026, 738 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.87 (td, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.78 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.1 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.70–6.58 (m, 2 H, 2 × ArH), 4.16 (s, 1 H, NH), 3.86 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.35–3.20 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.17–2.00 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.87–1.60 (m, 3 H, CH₂), 1.50–1.12 (m, 5 H, CH₂).

¹³C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 146.8 (C_q), 137.4 (C_q), 121.4, 115.9, 110.3, 109.7, 55.5, 51.5, 33.6, 26.1, 25.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]⁺ calcd for $C_{13}H_{19}NO$: 205.1467; found: 205.1471.

N-Cyclohexyl-2,6-diisopropylaniline (6)

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2,6-diisopropylaniline (62.9 µL, 300 µmol) using TMSOTf (139 µL, 750 µmol) instead of TMSCl; 230 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 100:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 51.6 mg (199 µmol, 66%); colorless, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.76 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 9:1) (254 nm, KMnO₄: yellow).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[32]

N-Cyclohexylaniline (7)

Prepared according to general procedure A from aniline (92.0 µL, 1.00 mmol); 19 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 45:1, size: 11 × 2.8 cm); yield: 134 mg (765 µmol, 77%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from aniline (27.7 µL, 300 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 150:1, 80:1, size: 14 × 0.8 cm); yield: 40.4 mg (230 µmol, 77%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from aniline (92.0 µL, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 45:1, size: 15.5 × 3.5 cm); yield: 123 mg (702 µmol, 70%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

R_f = 0.79 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, CAM: carnate).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[33]

Diethyl [2-(Cyclohexylamino)phenyl]phosphonate (8)

Prepared according to general procedure A from diethyl (2-amino-phenyl)phosphonate[34] (229 mg, 1.00 mmol); 3 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 5:1, size: 11 × 2.8 cm); yield: 276 mg (886 µmol, 89%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from diethyl (2-amino-phenyl)phosphonate[34] (68.8 mg, 300 µmol); 10 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 5:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm); yield: 67.6 mg (217 µmol, 72%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

R_f = 0.24 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 5:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: blue).

IR (ATR): 3314, 2981, 2853, 1598, 1582, 1523, 1456, 1325, 1220, 1046, 1017, 955, 747, 559, 532, 513 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.51–7.38 (m, 1 H, ArH), 7.36–7.24 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.69–6.44 (m, 3 H, 2 × ArH, NH), 4.20–3.94 (m, 4 H, 2 × CH$_2$), 3.40–3.25 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.05–1.92 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.84–1.68 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.65–1.53 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.47–1.19 (m, 11 H, CH$_2$, 2 × CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 151.2 (d, $^2J_{CP}$ = 9.0 Hz, C$_q$, Ar-N), 134.2 (d, $^4J_{CP}$ = 2.1 Hz, CH$_{arom}$), 134.0 (d, $^2J_{CP}$ = 7.3 Hz, CH$_{arom}$), 114.8 (d, $^3J_{CP}$ = 14.2 Hz, CH$_{arom}$), 111.5 (d, $^3J_{CP}$ = 12.2 Hz, CH$_{arom}$), 107.5 (d, $^1J_{CP}$ = 182.6 Hz, C$_q$, Ar-P), 62.0 (d, $^2J_{CP}$ = 4.9 Hz, CH$_2$), 50.8 (s, CH), 32.8 (s, CH$_2$), 26.0 (s, CH$_2$), 24.7 (s, CH$_2$), 16.4 (d, $^3J_{CP}$ = 6.7 Hz, CH$_3$).

^{31}P NMR (122 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 22.06 (s).

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{16}$H$_{26}$NO$_3$P: 311.1650; found: 311.1669.

2,6-Dichloro-N-cyclohexylaniline (9)

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2,6-dichloroaniline (49.6 mg, 300 µmol) and cyclohexanone (47.2 µL, 450 µmol); 18 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 400:1, size: 14 × 0.8 cm); yield: 66.0 mg (270 µmol, 90%); colorless, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from 2,6-dichloroaniline (165 mg, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 300:1, 150:1, size: 8 × 2.7 cm); yield: 213 mg (872 µmol, 87%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

R_f = 0.84 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 9:1) (254 nm)

IR (ATR): 3355, 2926, 2851, 1580, 1493, 1447, 1421, 1249, 1139, 1081, 889, 836, 805, 762, 723, 623, 528 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.22 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 6.75 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.98–3.37 (m, 2 H, NH, CH), 2.03–1.88 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.82–1.68 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.67–1.53 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.40–1.08 (m, 5 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 142.1 (C$_q$), 128.8, 126.7 (C$_q$), 121.5, 55.4, 34.5, 25.9, 25.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{12}$H$_{15}$Cl$_2$N: 243.0582; found: 243.0582.

2-(Cyclohexylamino)benzoic Acid (10)

Prepared according to general procedure B from anthranilic acid (42.0 mg, 300 µmol); 10 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc–AcOH, 100:10:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm); yield: 59.9 mg (273 µmol, 91%); light-yellow solid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from anthranilic acid (140 mg, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc–AcOH, 100:10:1, size: 15 × 3.5 cm); yield: 200 mg (912 µmol, 91%); light-yellow solid.

Mp 116 °C, R_f = 0.18 (cyclohexane–EtOAc–AcOH, 100:10:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-green).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[35]

1-[4-(Cyclohexylamino)phenyl]ethan-1-one (11)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 4-aminoacetophenone (138 mg, 1.00 mmol); 21 h reaction time, purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 40:1, size: 13 × 2.8 cm), yield: 62.5 mg (288 µmol, 29%); light-orange, sticky solid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from 4-aminoacetophenone (41.4 mg, 300 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 9:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm), yield: 51.5 mg (237 µmol, 79%); light-yellow solid.

Mp 115–117 °C; R_f = 0.43 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm).

IR (ATR): 3324, 2924, 2914, 2852, 1648, 1584, 1569, 1451, 1431, 1359, 1339, 1279, 1257, 1170, 1147, 1106, 1069, 953, 823, 611, 568, 498, 468 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.79 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 6.52 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 4.47–3.85 (m, 1 H, NH), 3.42–3.24 (m,1 H, CH), 2.48 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 2.12–1.96 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.86–1.58 (m, 3 H, CH$_2$), 1.49–1.07 (m, 5 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 196.3 (C$_q$), 151.5 (C$_q$), 131.0, 126.3 (C$_q$), 111.6, 51.4, 33.2, 26.0, 25.8, 24.9.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{14}$H$_{19}$NO: 217.1467; found: 217.1470.

N-Cyclohexyl-2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (12)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (134 µL, 1.00 mmol); 3 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane, size: 9.5 × 3.6 cm); yield: 187 mg (717 µmol, 72%); colorless, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (40.2 µL, 300 µmol); 10 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 300:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm); yield: 53.2 mg (204 µmol, 68%); colorless, viscous liquid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (134 µL, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane, size: 15.5 × 3.0 cm); yield: 174 mg (666 µmol, 67%); light-yellow, viscous liquid.

R_f = 0.85 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, KMnO$_4$: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3435, 2932, 2857, 1624, 1534, 1444, 1351, 1322, 1302, 1283, 1259, 1240, 1195, 1161, 1091, 1066, 934, 853, 805, 658, 625, 610 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.07–6.94 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.91–6.78 (m, 2 H, ArH), 3.95 (br s, 1 H, NH), 3.41–3.19 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.13–1.93 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.87–1.57 (m, 3 H, CH$_2$), 1.51–1.10 (m, 6 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 153.0 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ = 243.1 Hz, C$_q$, Ar-F), 136.4 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ = 12.3 Hz, C$_q$, Ar-N), 127.3 (dd, $^2J_{CF}$ = 32.1 Hz, $^4J_{CF}$ = 3.2 Hz, C$_q$, Ar-CF$_3$), 124.4 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ = 271.9 Hz, CF$_3$), 114.7 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ = 20.3 Hz, CH$_{arom}$), 113.3–112.7 (m, CH$_{arom}$), 109.0–108.7 (m, CH$_{arom}$), 51.4 (s, CH), 33.3, 25.9, 25.0.

^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = –62.07, –132.19.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{15}$F$_4$N: 261.1141; found: 261.1145.

2-(Cyclohexylamino)benzonitrile (13)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol); 15 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 11 × 2.6 cm); yield: 188 mg (938 µmol, 94%); colorless solid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2-aminobenzonitrile (36.2 mg, 300 µmol); 18 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 100:1, size: 16 × 0.8 cm); yield: 56.2 mg (281 µmol, 94%); colorless solid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 70:1, size: 7 × 2.7 cm); yield: 182 mg (910 µmol, 91%); light-yellow solid.

Mp 61–62 °C; R_f = 0.32 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[36]

N-Cyclohexyl-2-nitroaniline (14)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-nitroaniline (141 mg, 1.00 mmol); 21 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 11 × 2.8 cm); yield: 162 mg (735 µmol, 74%); bright-orange solid.

Prepared according to general procedure B from 2-nitroaniline (42.3 mg, 300 µmol); 30 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 80:1, size: 7.5 × 2.2 cm); yield: 62.1 mg (282 µmol, 94%); bright-orange solid.

Prepared according to general procedure C from 2-nitroaniline (42.3 mg, 300 µmol); 30 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 80:1, size: 7.5 × 2.2 cm); yield: 51.5 mg (234 µmol, 78%); bright-orange solid.

Mp 101–103 °C, R_f = 0.70 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 2:1) (254 nm, VIS: orange).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[37]

N-Cyclohexylpyridin-3-amine (15)

Prepared according to general procedure B from 3-aminopyridine (28.5 mg, 300 µmol); 11 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (CH$_2$Cl$_2$–MeOH, 80:1, size: 13 × 1 cm); yield: 44.2 mg (251 µmol, 84%); light-beige solid; mp 86–89 °C; R_f = 0.20 (CH$_2$Cl$_2$–MeOH, 80:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, KMnO$_4$: yellow).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[38]

2-(Benzylamino)benzonitrile (16)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol) and benzaldehyde (155 µL, 1.5 mmol); 15 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1, size: 11 × 2.6 cm); yield: 167 mg (803 µmol, 80%); colorless solid; mp 110–112 °C; R_f = 0.15 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: violet-grey).

The spectra (see SI) were in accordance with the previously reported data.[39]

Methyl 2-(Benzylamino)benzoate (17)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and benzaldehyde (33.9 µL, 330 µmol); 20 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 100:1, 70:1, size: 12 × 2.4 cm); yield: 61.6 mg (255 µmol, 85%); light-yellow, very viscous liquid; R_f = 0.72 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 4:1) (254 nm, 366 nm).

IR (ATR): 3380, 2945, 1672, 1601, 1576, 1516, 1494, 1453, 1434, 1323, 1287, 1225, 1187, 1166, 1147, 1102, 1077, 753, 728, 703, 693, 595, 566, 527, 458 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.09 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.84 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.36–7.12 (m, 6 H, ArH), 6.63–6.45 (m, 2 H, ArH), 4.37 (s, 2 H, CH$_2$), 3.78 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.2 (C$_q$), 151.1 (C$_q$), 139.0 (C$_q$), 134.7, 131.8, 128.8, 127.3, 127.2, 115.0, 111.8, 110.4 (C$_q$), 51.6, 47.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{15}$NO$_2$: 241.1103; found: 241.1108.

Methyl 2-[(Pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]benzoate (18)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (31.6 µL, 330 µmol); 10 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1, 2:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm); yield: 61.1 mg (252 µmol, 84%); light-yellow, viscous liquid; Rf = 0.16 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 2:1) (254 nm, 366 nm).

IR (ATR): 3473, 3365, 2950, 2846, 1680, 1607, 1586, 1516, 1487, 1452, 1297, 1238, 1188, 1161, 1094, 1024, 962, 748, 699, 665, 526, 499 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.70–8.62 (m, 1 H, ArH), 8.55 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 3.9 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 8.23 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.96 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.70 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.39–7.23 (m, 2 H, ArH), 6.71–6.58 (m, 2 H, ArH), 4.50 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 5.5 Hz, 2 H, CH$_2$), 3.89 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.2 (C$_q$), 150.6 (C$_q$), 149.1, 148.8, 134.9, 134.8, 134.5 (C$_q$), 131.9, 123.7, 115.5, 111.6, 110.71 (C$_q$), 51.7, 44.7.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{14}$H$_{14}$N$_2$O$_2$: 242.1055; found: 242.1058.

Methyl 2-(Cinnamylamino)benzoate (19)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and cinnamic aldehyde (42.4 mg, 330 µmol); 10 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 15 × 0.8 cm); yield: 65.0 mg (243 µmol, 81%); yellow-orange, amorphous solid; mp 33–35 °C; R_f = 0.88 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3386, 3362, 3023, 3003, 2947, 2844, 1675, 1605, 1575, 1513, 1436, 1318, 1278, 1254, 1219, 1191, 1163, 1149, 1096, 1081, 1048, 963, 743, 730, 691, 664, 528 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.10–7.75 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.41–7.14 (m, 6 H, ArH), 6.71 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.66–6.53 (m, 2 H), 6.37–6.22 (m, 1 H), 4.05 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 11.5 Hz, 2 H, CH$_2$), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.2 (C$_q$), 151.1 (C$_q$), 137.0 (C$_q$), 134.7, 131.8, 131.6, 128.7, 127.6, 126.51, 126.47, 115.0, 111.8, 110.4 (C$_q$), 51.6, 45.1.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{17}$NO$_2$: 267.1259; found: 267.1273.

Methyl 2-(Cyclopentylamino)benzoate (20)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and cyclopentanone (29.5 µL, 330 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 250:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 63.0 mg (287 µmol, 96%); colorless liquid; R_f = 0.20 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 200:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-green).

IR (ATR): 3353, 2950, 2869, 1680, 1606, 1579, 1514, 1457, 1435, 1331, 1256, 1231, 1184, 1161, 1138, 1086, 1077, 1046, 745, 702, 526 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.98–7.65 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.40–7.28 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.72 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.55 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.95–3.75 (m, 4 H, CH, CH$_3$), 2.14–1.93 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.88–1.49 (m, 6 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.3 (C$_q$), 150.9 (C$_q$), 134.6, 131.8, 114.2, 112.2, 109.8 (C$_q$), 53.8, 51.5, 33.6, 24.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{17}$NO$_2$: 219.1259; found: 219.1260.

Methyl 2-(Cycloheptylamino)benzoate (21)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and cycloheptanone (39.3 µL, 330 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 200:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 67.5 mg (273 µmol, 91%); colorless, very viscous liquid; R_f = 0.23 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 200:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-green).

IR (ATR): 3349, 2923, 2853, 1681, 1606, 1579, 1515, 1457, 1436, 1328, 1227, 1187, 1161, 1142, 1087, 1046, 841, 745, 702, 569, 525 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.12–7.67 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.39–7.28 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.73–6.46 (m, 2 H, ArH), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.66–3.47 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.09–1.89 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.78–1.43 (m, 10 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.3 (C$_q$), 150.2 (C$_q$), 134.6, 132.0, 114.1, 112.1, 109.9 (C$_q$), 52.9, 51.5, 34.7, 28.4, 24.4.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{21}$NO$_2$: 247.1572; found: 247.1589.

Ethyl 4-{[2-(Methoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino}piperidine-1-carboxylate (22)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and ethyl 4-oxopiperidine-1-carboxylate (50.7 µL, 330 µmol); 15 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 7:1, 6:1, size: 6 × 2.2 cm); yield: 88.3 mg (288 µmol, 96%); light-yellow, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.30 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-green).

IR (ATR): 3342, 2981, 2948, 2856, 1680, 1605, 1581, 1517, 1455, 1431, 1379, 1330, 1238, 1220, 1192, 1155, 1128, 1096, 1075, 1032, 974, 848, 747, 703, 559 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.99–7.69 (m, 2 H, ArH, NH), 7.31 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.67 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.56 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 4.12 (q, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.0 Hz, 2 H, CH$_2$-O), 4.04–3.87 (m, 2 H,

CH$_2$), 3.82 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.65–3.49 (m, 1 H, CH), 3.22–3.00 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 2.10–1.89 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.62–1.39 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 1.25 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.0 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.1 (C$_q$), 155.6 (C$_q$), 149.9 (C$_q$), 134.6, 132.0, 114.7, 111.5, 110.1 (C$_q$), 61.4, 51.5, 48.5, 42.2, 31.7, 14.7.

HR-MS: m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{16}$H$_{22}$N$_2$O$_4$: 306.1580; found: 306.1595.

tert-Butyl 3-{[2-(Methoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino}piperidine-1-carboxylate (23)

Prepared according to general procedure A from methyl anthranilate (131 µL, 1.00 mmol) and 1-Boc-3-piperidone (305 mg, 1.50 mmol); 44 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 20:1, size: 20 × 1.2 cm); yield: 220 mg (657 µmol, 66%); light-yellow, very viscous liquid; R_f = 0.49 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: crimson).

IR (ATR): 3342, 2974, 2935, 2857, 1681, 1606, 1581, 1517, 1457, 1421, 1365, 1331, 1255, 1237, 1141, 1076, 973, 867, 747, 704, 526 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.97–7.70 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.34 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 11.3 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 4.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.80 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.59 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 4.41–3.61 (m, 5 H, CH$_3$, CH$_2$), 3.54–3.37 (m, 1 H, CH), 3.26–2.56 (m, 2 H, CH$_2$), 2.18–1.95 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.89–1.27 (m, 12 H, CH$_2$, 3 × CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.2 (C$_q$), 154.8 (C$_q$), 150.0 (C$_q$), 134.8, 131.9, 115.0, 111.8, 110.3 (C$_q$), 79.7 (C$_q$), 51.6, 48.8, 48.4, 44.1, 31.0, 28.5, 23.8.

HR-MS (DI-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{18}$H$_{26}$N$_2$O$_4$: 334.1893; found 334.1894.

2-(Adamantan-2-ylamino)benzonitrile (24)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol) and 2-adamantanone (228 mg, 1.50 mmol); 41 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 12 × 2.7 cm); yield: 203 mg (803 µmol, 80%); colorless solid; mp 96–100 °C; R_f = 0.30 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: light-violet).

IR (ATR): 3379, 3368, 3074, 2901, 2888, 2845, 2215, 1603, 1573, 1513, 1463, 1449, 1322, 1285, 1164, 1129, 1064, 1026, 810, 799, 740, 503 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.42–7.27 (m, 2 H, ArH), 6.71–6.49 (m, 2 H, ArH), 5.02–4.79 (m, 1 H, NH), 3.69–3.54 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.09–1.55 (m, 14 H, CH, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 149.5 (C$_q$), 134.2, 132.9, 118.2 (C$_q$), 116.0, 111.2, 95.8 (C$_q$), 56.5, 37.6, 37.3, 31.6, 31.5, 27.4, 27.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{20}$N$_2$: 252.1626; found: 252.1627.

Methyl 2-(Adamantan-2-ylamino)benzoate (25)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and 2-adamantanone (50.1 mg, 330 µmol); 24 min reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 150:1, 120:1, size: 4 × 2.2 cm); yield: 80.8 mg (283 µmol, 94%); light-yellow, waxy solid; mp 98–100 °C; R_f = 0.73 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 9:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: crimson).

IR (ATR): 3360, 2961, 2905, 2853, 1681, 1604, 1579, 1516, 1456, 1433, 1328, 1254, 1227, 1162, 1076, 1062, 796, 746, 701, 583, 551, 526, 497 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.21 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.83 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.23 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.59 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.6 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.44 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.79 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.66–3.52 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.06–1.45 (m, 14 H, CH$_2$, CH).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 168.3 (C$_q$), 149.3 (C$_q$), 133.5, 130.9, 112.8, 110.6, 108.5 (C$_q$), 55.0, 50.4, 36.7, 36.3, 30.8, 30.6, 26.4, 26.3.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{18}$H$_{23}$NO$_2$: 285.1729; found: 285.1740.

2-(Pentan-2-ylamino)benzonitrile (26)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol) and 2-pentanone (164 µL, 1.5 mmol); 39 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 11 × 2.6 cm); yield: 150 mg (795 µmol, 80%); light-yellow, sticky solid; R_f = 0.31 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3407, 3363, 2960, 2931, 2872, 2210, 1604, 1575, 1512, 1461, 1380, 1324, 1289, 1167, 1042, 744, 568, 495 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.41–7.29 (m, 2 H, ArH), 6.70–6.55 (m, 2 H, ArH), 4.34 (br s, 1 H, NH), 3.64–3.47 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.67–1.31 (m, 4 H, 2 × CH$_2$), 1.22 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.3 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$), 0.94 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 149.9 (C$_q$), 134.3, 133.0, 118.2 (C$_q$), 116.0, 111.0, 95.7 (C$_q$), 48.3, 39.2, 20.7, 19.4, 14.1.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{12}$H$_{16}$N$_2$: 188.1313; found: 188.1315.

2-[(4-Methylpentan-2-yl)amino]benzonitrile (27)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol) and 4-methylpentan-2-one (191 µL, 1.5 mmol); 39 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 11 × 2.6 cm); yield: 139 mg (685 µmol, 69%); colorless, amorphous solid; mp 30–32 °C; Rf = 0.34 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3356, 2959, 2918, 2863, 2839, 2214, 1604, 1574, 1516, 1464, 1432, 1366, 1324, 1292, 1268, 1165, 1035, 742, 567, 523, 489, 430 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.43–7.28 (m, 2 H, ArH), 6.72–6.54 (2 H, ArH), 4.30 (br s, 1 H, NH), 3.70–3.50 (m, 1 H, CH-N), 1.84–1.66 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.58–1.41 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.40–1.27 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.19 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.9 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$), 1.02–0.80 (m, 6 H, 2 × CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 149.9 (C$_q$), 134.3, 133.3, 118.2 (C$_q$), 116.0, 110.9, 95.7 (C$_q$), 46.6, 46.5, 25.1, 22.8, 22.7, 21.0.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{18}$N$_2$: 202.1470; found: 202.1484.

Methyl 2-[(4-Methylpentan-2-yl)amino]benzoate (28)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and 4-methylpentan-2-one (42.2 µL, 330 µmol); left stirring in the thawing ice bath; 23 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 150:1, 120:1, size: 12 × 2.4 cm); yield: 30.6 mg (130 µmol, 43%); light-yellow, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.77 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 9:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3346, 2955, 2927, 2870, 1682, 1606, 1579, 1516, 1458, 1435, 1325, 1249, 1224, 1189, 1163, 1132, 1083, 1047, 746, 703, 527 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.89 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.66 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.33 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.70 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.53 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.71–3.55 (m, 1 H, CH-N), 1.87–1.70 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.65–1.50 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.44–1.15 (m, 4 H, CH$_3$, CH$_2$), 1.03–0.80 (m, 6 H, 2 × CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.3 (C$_q$), 150.8 (C$_q$), 134.7, 132.0, 114.0, 111.6, 109.7 (C$_q$), 51.5, 46.7, 45.8, 25.2, 22.9, 21.1.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{14}$H$_{21}$NO$_2$: 235.1572; found: 235.1585.

Methyl 2-[(4-Methoxy-4-oxobutan-2-yl)amino]benzoate (29)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol) and methyl acetoacetate (36.0 µL, 330 µmol); 6 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 17:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 50.8 mg (202 µmol, 67%); colorless, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.55 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 3:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-green).

IR (ATR): 3341, 2952, 1735, 1682, 1605, 1581, 1516, 1457, 1435, 1323, 1299, 1239, 1190, 1162, 1130, 1077, 1047, 1005, 748, 703, 527 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.00–7.65 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.41–7.30 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.75 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.59 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.3 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 4.16–3.99 (m, 1 H. CH), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.69 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 2.73 (dd, $^2J_{HH}$ = 15.1 Hz, $^3J_{HH}$ = 5.0 Hz, 1 H, CH$_2$), 2.43 (dd, $^2J_{HH}$ = 15.1 Hz, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.33 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.4 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 172.1 (C$_q$, C-12), 169.1 (C$_q$, C-2), 149.8 (C$_q$, C-8), 134.8 (CH$_{arom}$), 132.0 (CH$_{arom}$), 115.0 (CH$_{arom}$), 111.8 (CH$_{arom}$), 110.4 (C$_q$, C-3), 51.8 (CH$_3$), 51.6 (CH$_3$), 45.1 (C-10), 41.2 (C-11), 20.8 (C-9).

HR-MS: m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{17}$NO$_4$: 251.1158; found: 251.1172.

Methyl 2-[(3,3-Dimethylbutan-2-yl)amino]benzoate (30)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 µL, 300 µmol), pinacolone (57.4 µL, 450 µmol) and TMSOTf (139 µL, 750 µmol, instead of TMSCl); left stirring in the thawing ice bath; 20 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 1:0, 120:1, size: 14 × 2.5 cm); yield: 35.2 mg (150 µmol, 50%); yellow, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.23 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 120:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-yellow).

IR (ATR): 3345, 2955, 2871, 1680, 1606, 1580, 1518, 1457, 1435, 1370, 1350, 1321, 1254, 1232, 1189, 1161, 1119, 1080, 1046, 745, 702, 520 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.17–7.81 (m, 2 H, NH, ArH), 7.37–7.27 (m, 1 H, ArH), 6.73 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.6 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.51 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.4 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.45–3.30 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.14 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.5 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$), 1.02 (s, 9 H, 3 × CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.5 (C$_q$), 151.3 (C$_q$), 134.7, 132.0, 113.8, 111.6, 109.5 (C$_q$), 56.6, 51.6, 35.0 (C$_q$), 26.7, 15.7.

HR-MS: m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{14}$H$_{21}$NO$_2$: 235.1572; found: 235.1602.

2-[(1-Phenylethyl)amino]benzonitrile (31)

Prepared according to general procedure A from 2-aminobenzonitrile (121 mg, 1.00 mmol) and acetophenone (178 µL, 1.5 mmol); 39 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 50:1, size: 11 × 2.6 cm); yield: 156 mg (701 µmol, 70%); colorless, crystalline solid; mp 84 °C; R_f = 0.27 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 30:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: red-grey).

IR (ATR): 3361, 3024, 2973, 2930, 2866, 2213, 1603, 1577, 1517, 1491, 1470, 1448, 1342, 1330, 1316, 1291, 1261, 1167, 1147, 1095, 1023, 947, 759, 741, 700, 608, 565, 541, 484, 445 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.41–7.14 (m, 7 H, ArH), 6.60 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.41 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 4.89 (br s, 1 H, NH), 4.62–4.47 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.57 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.7 Hz, 1 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 149.4 (C$_q$), 143.8 (C$_q$), 134.2, 132.7, 129.0, 127.4, 125.7, 118.1 (C$_q$), 116.8, 112.1, 96.0 (C$_q$), 53.4, 25.0

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{14}$N$_2$: 222.1157; found: 222.1167.

Methyl 2-[(1-Phenylethyl)amino]benzoate (32)

Prepared according to general procedure B from methyl anthranilate (39.2 μL, 300 μmol), acetophenone (53.5 μL, 450 μmol) and TMSOTf (139 μL, 750 μmol, instead of TMSCl); left stirring in the thawing ice bath; 23 h reaction time; purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 80:1, size: 8 × 0.8 cm); yield: 66.3 mg (260 μmol, 87%); colorless, viscous liquid; R_f = 0.14 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 120:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange-red).

IR (ATR): 3352, 3026, 2965, 2950, 2869, 1681, 1605, 1580, 1514, 1451, 1436, 1324, 1241, 1202, 1163, 1124, 1080, 1046, 1017, 747, 698, 557, 522 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.13 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.82 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.0 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.33–7.03 (m, 6 H, ArH), 6.45 (t, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.36 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.5 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 4.57–4.41 (m, 1 H, CH), 3.81 (s, 3 H, O-CH$_3$), 1.51 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.7 Hz, 3 H, CH$_3$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 169.4 (C$_q$), 150.3 (C$_q$), 145.0 (C$_q$), 134.6, 131.6, 128.8, 127.0, 125.9, 114.9, 112.9, 110.2 (C$_q$), 53.0, 51.6, 25.2.

HR-MS (GC-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{16}$H$_{17}$NO$_2$: 255.1259; found: 255.1267.

Methyl 5-Bromo-2-{[3-(methoxycarbonyl)cyclohexyl]amino}benzoate (33)

A dry 100 mL Schlenk flask with magnetic stirring bar was charged with methyl 2-amino-5-bromobenzoate hydrobromide (2.37 g, 7.62 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and the solid was dried under an oil-pump vacuum for 10 min. To the Schlenk flask were added anhyd DMF (5 mL), methyl 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carboxylate[40] (1.25 g, 8.00 mmol, 1.05 equiv), and TMSCl (2.95 mL, 22.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) at r.t. The glass stopper was replaced by a rubber septum, the yellow two-phase mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and BH$_3$·THF (7.60 mL, 7.60 mol, 1.0 equiv) was added by syringe over a period of 42 min. The flask with the colorless solution with colorless precipitate was sealed and was left stirring for 48 min at 0 °C, when full conversion was detected by TLC. H$_2$O (10 mL) was added carefully, followed by neutralization with 25% NH$_4$OH. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the residue was adsorbed on Celite (7 g, suspending in MeOH) and purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 20:1, 15:1, 12:1, 80 g silica gel, size: 18 × 3.5 cm); yield: 2.70 g (7.30 μmol, 96%); light-yellow, very viscous liquid.

HR-MS (DI-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{16}$H$_{20}$BrNO$_4$: 369.0576; found: 369.0580.

(1S*,3R*)-33

R_f = 0.40 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 5:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange).

IR (ATR): 3339, 2946, 2859, 1733, 1685, 1598, 1574, 1502, 1435, 1407, 1308, 1245, 1201, 1127, 1108, 1074, 1015, 966, 898, 807, 787, 706, 644, 569, 519 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.99 (d, $^4J_{HH}$ = 2.3 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.71 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.2 Hz, 1 H, NH), 7.37 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 9.0 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 2.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.58 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.84 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.66 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.44–3.25 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.51–2.30 (m, 2 H, CH, CH$_2$), 2.19–1.84 (m, 3 H, CH$_2$), 1.52–1.12 (m, 4 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 175.3 (C$_q$), 168.1 (C$_q$), 149.1 (C$_q$), 137.2 (CH$_{arom}$), 134.2 (CH$_{arom}$), 113.6 (CH$_{arom}$), 111.4 (C$_q$), 105.6 (C$_q$), 51.84, 51.81, 50.7, 42.5, 35.3, 32.6, 28.5, 24.4.

(1S*,3S*)-33

R_f = 0.47 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 5:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: orange).

IR (ATR): 3344, 2936, 2860, 1730, 1683, 1575, 1502, 1435, 1314, 1215, 1188, 1113, 1079, 1042, 967, 883, 808, 788, 706 644, 564, 521 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 7.99 (d, $^4J_{HH}$ = 2.3 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.90 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 6.8 Hz, 1 H, NH), 7.39 (dd, $^4J_{HH}$ = 9.0, $^3J_{HH}$ = 2.2 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.67 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.92–3.62 (m, 7 H, CH, 2 × CH$_3$), 2.77–2.63 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.14–1.96 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.89–1.49 (m, 7 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 175.9 (C$_q$), 168.3 (C$_q$), 149.2 (C$_q$), 137.4 (CH$_{arom}$), 134.1 (CH$_{arom}$), 113.7 (CH$_{arom}$), 111.3 (C$_q$), 105.6 (C$_q$), 51.8, 47.0, 38.7, 32.6, 31.1, 28.1, 21.2.

Methyl 5-Iodo-2-{[3-(methoxycarbonyl)cyclohexyl]amino}benzoate (34)

A dry 100 mL Schlenk flask with magnetic stirring bar was charged with methyl 2-amino-5-iodobenzoate hydrochloride (6.69 g, 21.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and the solid was dried under an oil-pump vacuum for 10 min. To the Schlenk flask were added anhyd DMF (40 mL) followed by methyl 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carboxylate[40] (3.50 g, 22.4 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and TMSCl (8.30 mL, 64.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The glass stopper was replaced by a rubber septum, the flesh-colored, two-phase mixture was cooled with an ice bath, and BH$_3$·THF (23.0 mL, 23.0 mmol, 1.08 equiv) was added over a period of 60 min. The flask was sealed and the mixture was left stirring at 0 °C until full conversion of the starting material was detected by TLC (30 min). The light-yellow solution was carefully treated with H$_2$O (20 mL), followed by neutralization with 25% NH$_4$OH. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the residue was adsorbed on Celite (24 g, suspended in MeOH) and purified by column chromatography (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 15:1, 10:1, 8:1, 6:1, 300 g silica gel, size: 13 × 7.5 cm); yield: 8.61 g (20.6 mmol, 97%); yellow, very viscous liquid.

HR-MS (DI-EI): m/z [M]$^+$ calcd for C$_{16}$H$_{20}$INO$_4$: 417.0437; found: 417.0443.

(1S*,3R*)-34

R_f = 0.46 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 4:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3338, 2937, 2859, 1732, 1682, 1591, 1571, 1500, 1435, 1403, 1320, 1308, 1247, 1201, 1127, 1106, 1075, 1015, 965, 899, 806, 788, 758, 697, 637, 572, 518 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.15 (d, $^4J_{HH}$ = 2.1 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.73 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.2 Hz, 1 H, NH), 7.51 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.9 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.48 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.83 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.66 (s, 3 H, CH$_3$), 3.41–3.25 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.52–2.28 (m, 2 H, CH, CH$_2$), 2.17–1.82 (m, 3 H, CH$_2$), 1.52–1.11 (m, 4 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 175.3 (C$_q$), 168.0 (C$_q$), 149.5 (C$_q$), 142.7 (CH$_{arom}$), 140.2 (CH$_{arom}$), 114.1 (CH$_{arom}$), 112.2 (C$_q$), 73.9 (C$_q$), 51.84, 51.79, 50.6, 42.4, 35.3, 32.6, 28.4, 24.4.

(1S*,3S*)-34

R_f = 0.51 (cyclohexane–EtOAc, 4:1) (254 nm, 366 nm, CAM: yellow).

IR (ATR): 3342, 2946, 2859, 1730, 1681, 1591, 1571, 1499, 1435, 1404, 1314, 1215, 1188, 1140, 1111, 1081, 1042, 807, 788, 697, 644, 562, 520 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 8.16 (d, $^4J_{HH}$ = 2.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 7.93 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 7.0 Hz, 1 H, NH), 7.53 (dd, $^3J_{HH}$ = 8.9 Hz, $^4J_{HH}$ = 1.6 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 6.57 (d, $^3J_{HH}$ = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, ArH), 3.94–3.62 (m, 7 H, 2 × CH$_3$, CH), 2.78–2.62 (m, 1 H, CH), 2.13–1.92 (m, 1 H, CH$_2$), 1.90–1.51 (m, 7 H, CH$_2$).

^{13}C NMR (75.53 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ = 175.9 (C$_q$), 168.2 (C$_q$), 149.6 (C$_q$), 142.8 (CH$_{arom}$), 140.1 (CH$_{arom}$), 114.3 (CH$_{arom}$), 112.1 (C$_q$), 73.9 (C$_q$), 51.8 (2 × CH$_3$), 46.9, 38.7, 32.5, 31.0, 28.1, 21.2.

Acknowledgment

Supporting Information

Supporting information for this article is available online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0035-1561384.

References

(1) Mentel, M.; Ahuja, E. G.; Mavrodi, D. V.; Breinbauer, R.; Thomashow, L. S.; Blankenfeldt, W. *ChemBioChem* **2009**, *10*, 2295.

(2) Ahuja, E. G.; Janning, P.; Mentel, M.; Graebsch, A.; Breinbauer, R.; Hiller, W.; Costisella, B.; Thomashow, L. S.; Mavrodi, D. V.; Blankenfeldt, W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 17053.

(3) Mentel, M.; Blankenfeldt, W.; Breinbauer, R. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 9084.

(4) (a) Graebe, C.; Lagodzinski, K. *Chem. Ber.* **1892**, *25*, 1733. (b) Ullmann, F.; Bielecki, J. *Chem. Ber.* **1901**, *34*, 2174. (c) Ullmann, F. *Chem. Ber.* **1903**, *36*, 2382. (d) Goldberg, I. *Chem. Ber.* **1906**, *39*, 1691. (e) For a review, see: Ley, S. V.; Thomas, A. W. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 5400.

(5) For borohydrides, see: (a) Abdel-Magid, A. F.; Maryanoff, C. A. *Synlett* **1990**, 537. (b) Abdel-Magid, A. F.; Carson, K. G.; Harris, B. D.; Maryanoff, C. A.; Shah, R. D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 3849. (c) Cho, B. T.; Kang, S. K. *Synlett* **2004**, 1484. (d) Miriyala, B.; Bhattacharyya, S.; Williamson, J. S. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, *60*, 1463. (e) Gutierrez, C. D.; Bavetsias, V.; McDonald, E. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 3595. (f) McLaughlin, M.; Palucki, M.; Davies, I. W. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 3307. (g) Abdel-Magid, A. F.; Mehrman, S. J. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2006**, *10*, 971. (h) Tajbakhsh, M.; Hosseinzadeh, R.; Alinezhad, H.; Ghahari, S.; Heydari, A.; Khaksar, S. *Synthesis* **2011**, 490. (i) Bogolubsky, A. V.; Moroz, Y. S.; Pipko, S. E.; Panov, D. M.; Konovets, A. I.; Doroschuk, R.; Tolmachev, A. *Synthesis* **2014**, *46*, 1765.

(6) For reductive aminations with Et$_3$SiH, see: (a) Han, Y.; Chorev, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 1972. (b) Lee, O.-Y.; Law, K.-L.; Ho, C.-Y.; Yang, D. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 8829. (c) Lee, O.-Y.; Law, K.-L.; Yang, D. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 3302. (d) Prakash, G. K. S.; Do, C.; Mathew, T.; Olah, G. A. *Catal. Lett.* **2010**, *137*, 111. (e) Gellert, B.

A.; Kahlcke, N.; Feurer, M.; Roth, S. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 12203. (f) Matsumura, T.; Nakada, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2014**, *55*, 1829. With PMHS, see: (g) Chandrasekhar, S.; Reddy, C. R.; Ahmed, M. *Synlett* **2000**, 1655. (h) Patel, J. P.; Li, A.-H.; Dong, H.; Korlipara, V. L.; Mulvihill, M. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 5975. (i) Kumar, V.; Sharma, S.; Sharma, U.; Singh, B.; Kumar, N. *Green Chem.* **2012**, *14*, 3410. (j) Nayal, O. S.; Bhatt, V.; Sharma, S.; Kumar, N. *J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, *80*, 5912. With PhSiH$_3$, see: (k) Apodaca, R.; Xiao, W. *Org. Lett.* **2001**, *3*, 1745. (l) Smith, C. A.; Cross, L. E.; Hughes, K.; Davis, R. E.; Judd, D. B.; Merritt, A. T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 4906.

(7) For transfer hydrogenations, see: (a) Itoh, T.; Nagata, K.; Miyazaki, M.; Ishikawa, H.; Kurihara, A.; Ohsawa, A. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, *60*, 6649. (b) Menche, D.; Hassfeld, J.; Li, J.; Menche, G.; Ritter, A.; Rudolph, S. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 741. (c) Huang, Y.-B.; Yi, W.-B.; Cai, C. *J. Fluorine Chem.* **2010**, *131*, 879. (d) Nguyen, Q. P. B.; Kim, T. H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2011**, *52*, 5004. (e) Zhu, C.; Akiyama, T. *Synlett* **2011**, 1251. (f) Zhang, M.; Yang, H.; Zhang, Y.; Zhu, C.; Li, W.; Cheng, Y.; Hu, H. *Chem. Commun.* **2011**, *47*, 6605. (g) Lei, Q.; Wei, Y.; Talwar, D.; Wang, C.; Xue, D.; Xiao, J. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2013**, *19*, 4021. (h) Talwar, D.; Salguero, N. P.; Robertson, C. M.; Xiao, J. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 245. (i) Gülcemal, D.; Gülcemal, S.; Robertson, C. M.; Xiao, J. *Organometallics* **2015**, *34*, 4394.

(8) For metal-catalyzed reductive aminations, see: (a) Imao, D.; Fujihara, S.; Yamamoto, T.; Ohta, T.; Ito, Y. *Tetrahedron* **2005**, *61*, 6988. (b) Li, C.; Villa-Marcos, B.; Xiao, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 6967. (c) Rubio-Pérez, L.; Pérez-Flores, F. J.; Sharma, P.; Velasco, L.; Cabrera, A. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 265. (d) Steinhuebel, D.; Sun, Y.; Matsumura, K.; Sayo, N.; Saito, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 11316. (e) Werkmeister, S.; Junge, K.; Beller, M. *Green Chem.* **2012**, *14*, 2371. (f) Pagnoux-Ozherelyeva, A.; Pannetier, N.; Mbaye, M. D.; Gaillard, S.; Renaud, J.-L. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 4976. (g) Chusov, D.; List, B. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 5199. (h) Kolesnikov, P. N.; Yagafarov, N. Z.; Usanov, D. L.; Maleev, V. I.; Chusov, D. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 173. (i) Jumde, V. R.; Petricci, E.; Petrucci, C.; Santillo, N.; Taddei, M.; Vaccaro, L. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 3990.

(9) For reductive amination with BH$_3$·THF, see: (a) Heydari, A.; Tavakol, H.; Aslanzadeh, S.; Azarnia, J.; Ahmadi, N. *Synthesis* **2005**, 627. (b) Chen, W.-C.; Hsu, Y.-C.; Lee, C.-Y.; Yap, G. P. A.; Ong, T.-G. *Organometallics* **2013**, *32*, 2435. (c) For BH$_3$·SMe$_2$, see: Figge, A.; Altenbach, H. J.; Brauer, D. J.; Tielmann, P. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2002**, *13*, 137. (d) See also: Tokizane, M.; Sato, K.; Sakami, Y.; Imori, Y.; Matsuo, C.; Ohta, T.; Ito, Y. *Synthesis* **2010**, 36. (e) For a review on amine–boranes, see: Kanth, J. V. B. *Aldrichimica Acta* **2002**, *35*, 57. (f) For pyr·BH$_3$, see: Pelter, A.; Rosser, R. M. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **1984**, 717. (g) See also: Bomann, M. D.; Guch, I. C.; DiMare, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 5995. (h) See also: Tapia, I.; Alonso-Cires, L.; López-Tudanca, P. L.; Mosquera, R.; Labeaga, L.; Innerárity, A.; Orjales, A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1999**, *42*, 2870. (i) For picoline–borane: Sato, S.; Sakamoto, T.; Miyazawa, E.; Kikugawa, Y. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, *60*, 7899. (j) See also: Kawase, Y.; Yamagishi, T.; Kutsuma, T.; Zhibao, H.; Yamamoto, Y.; Kimura, T.; Nakata, T.; Kataoka, T.; Yokomatsu, T. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2012**, *16*, 495. (k) For NH$_3$·BH$_3$, see: Ramachandran, P. V.; Gagare, P. D.; Sakavuyi, K.; Clark, P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2010**, *51*, 3167. (l) For 5-ethyl-2-methylpyridine–borane, see: Burkhardt, E. R.; Coleridge, B. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 5152. (m) For 9-BBN, see: Qu, B.; Haddad, N.; Rodriguez, S.; Lee, H.; Ma, S.; Zeng, X.; Reeves, D. C.; Sidhu, K. P. S.; Lorenz, J. C.; Grinberg, N.; Busacca, C. A.;

Krishnamurthy, D.; Senanayake, C. H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2012**, *53*, 1982. (n) For decaborane, see: Bae, J. W.; Lee, S. H.; Cho, Y. J.; Yoon, C. M. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **2000**, 145.

(10) Baxter, E. W.; Reitz, A. B. *Reductive Aminations of Carbonyl Compounds with Borohydride and Borane Reducing Agents*, In *Organic Reactions*; Vol. 59; John Wiley & Sons: New York, **2002**, 1–714.

(11) Detzer, N.; Burkhard, O.; Schaffrin, H.; Liptay, W. *Z. Naturforsch., B: J. Chem. Sci.* **1987**, *42*, 1129.

(12) Kudzma, L. V.; Evans, S. M.; Turnbull, S. P. Jr.; Severnak, S. A.; Ezell, E. F. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **1995**, *5*, 1177.

(13) For reductive aminations of electron-deficient amines, see: (a) Ref. 6g. (b) Boros, E. E.; Thompson, J. B.; Katamreddy, S. R.; Carpenter, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 3587. (c) Ghorai, P.; Das, B. G. *Chem. Commun.* **2012**, *48*, 8276. (d) Ghorai, P.; Das, B. G. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2013**, *11*, 4379.

(14) Nakanishi, M.; Katayev, D.; Besnard, C.; Kündig, E. P. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 7438.

(15) Liu, Y.; Du, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 6810.

(16) Mattson, R. J.; Pham, K. M.; Leuck, D. J.; Cowen, K. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 2552.

(17) DiCesare, J. C.; White, C. E.; Rasmussen, W. E.; White, B. M.; McComas, C. B.; Craft, L. E. *Synth. Commun.* **2005**, *35*, 663.

(18) Menche, D.; Arikan, F.; Li, J.; Rudolph, S. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 267.

(19) Wilk, W.; Nören-Müller, A.; Kaiser, M.; Waldmann, H. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 11976.

(20) Coe, J. W.; Vetelino, M. G.; Bradlee, M. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 6045.

(21) Liu, Y.; Prashad, M.; Shieh, W.-C. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2014**, *18*, 239.

(22) Gribble, A. W.; Lord, P. D.; Skotnicki, J.; Dietz, S. E.; Eaton, J. T.; Johnson, J. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 7812.

(23) Gribble, G. W.; Jasinski, J. M.; Pellicone, J. T.; Panetta, J. A. *Synthesis* **1978**, 766.

(24) Marchini, P.; Liso, G.; Reho, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1975**, *40*, 3453.

(25) (a) Giannis, A.; Sandhoff, K. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1989**, *28*, 218. (b) Kanth, J. V. B.; Periasamy, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, *56*, 5964. (c) Prasad, A. S. B.; Kanth, J. V. B.; Periasamy, M. *Tetrahedron* **1992**, *48*, 4623. (d) Bolm, C.; Seger, A.; Felder, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*, 8079. (e) Romero, A. G.; Leiby, J. A.; Mizsak, S. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 6974. (f) Jiang, B.; Feng, Y.; Zheng, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 10281. (g) For a review on the use of organosilicon compounds as water scavengers, see: Volochnyuk, D. M.; Ryabukhin, S. V.; Plaskon, A. S.; Grygorenko, O. O. *Synthesis* **2009**, *22*, 3719.

(26) (a) Xu, D.; Ciszewski, L.; Li, T.; Repič, O.; Blacklock, T. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 1107. (b) Ciszewski, L.; Xu, D.; Repič, O.; Blacklock, T. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 8091.

(27) Brown, H. C. U.S. Patent 3,634,277, **1972**.

(28) (a) Brown, H. C.; Heim, P.; Yoon, N. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1970**, *92*, 1637. (b) Lane, C. F. *Chem. Rev.* **1976**, *76*, 773. (c) Potyen, M.; Josyula, K. V. B.; Schuck, M.; Lu, S.; Gao, P.; Hewitt, C. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2007**, *11*, 210. For an industrial incident involving a 400 L cylinder of 2 M borane–THF, see: (d) Reisch, M. *Chem. Eng. News* **2002**, *80*,26 7. (e) am Ende, D. J.; Vogt, P. F. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2003**, *7*, 1029.

(29) (a) Borch, R. F.; Bernstein, M. D.; Durst, H. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 2897. (b) Schellenberg, K. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1963**, *28*, 3259.

(30) (a) Cragg, G. M. L. In *Organoboranes in Organic Synthesis*; Marcel Dekker: New York, **1973**, 324. (b) Cha, J. S.; Moon, S. J.; Park, J. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 7514.

(31) Chaikin, S. W.; Brown, W. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1949**, *71*, 122.

(32) Seo, H.; Snead, D. R.; Abboud, K. A.; Hong, S. *Organometallics* **2011**, *30*, 5725.

(33) Hollmann, D.; Bähn, S.; Tillack, A.; Beller, M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 8291.

(34) Diethyl (2-aminophenyl)phosphonate was prepared from 2-bromoaniline by using a procedure by: Gooßen, L. J.; Dezfuli, M. K. *Synlett* **2005**, 445.

(35) Zeng, L.; Fu, H.; Qiao, R.; Jiang, Y.; Zhao, Y. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2009**, *351*, 1671.

(36) Bruncko, M.; Oost, T. K.; Belli, B. A.; Ding, H.; Joseph, M. K.; Kunzer, A.; Martineau, D.; McClellan, W. J.; Mitten, M.; Ng, S.-C.; Nimmer, P. M.; Oltersdorf, T.; Park, C.-M.; Petros, A. M.; Shoemaker, A. R.; Song, X.; Wang, X.; Wendt, M. D.; Zhang, H.; Fesik, S. W.; Rosenberg, S. H.; Elmore, S. W. *J. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *50*, 641.

(37) Sreedhar, B.; Arundhathi, R.; Reddy, P. L.; Reddy, M. A.; Kantam, M. L. *Synthesis* **2009**, 2517.

(38) Shafir, A.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 8742.

(39) Likhar, P. R.; Arundhathi, R.; Kantam, M. L.; Prathima, P. S. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 5383.

(40) (a) Methyl 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carboxylate was prepared from 3-oxocyclohexane-1-carbonitrile by using a procedure by: Chow, S.; Fletcher, M. T.; Lambert, L. K.; Gallagher, O. P.; Moore, C. J.; Cribb, B. W.; Allsopp, P. G.; Kitching, W. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 1808. (b) 3-Oxocyclohexane-1-carbonitrile was prepared from cyclohex-2-en-1-one by using a procedure by: Winkler, M.; Knall, A. C.; Kulterer, M. R.; Klempier, N. *J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, *72*, 7423.