

Sequential Removal of Photolabile Protecting Groups for Carbonyls with Controlled Wavelength

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A group of robust and easy-to-make photolabile protecting groups (PPGs) for carbonyl compounds has been developed. Sequential removal of different PPGs is achieved via control of irradiation wavelength.

Introduction

Protecting groups are essential tools in organic chemistry.¹ Among various protecting groups, photolabile protecting groups (PPGs) have very valuable features, including their neutral removal by light without the use of any chemical reagent and the capability of releasing substrates in a spatially and temporally controlled manner. These advantages are appealing to both basic and applied sciences, and development of practically useful PPGs is highly sought.^{1,2}

As a reactive functionality, carbonyl groups often need to be protected in the course of a multistep synthesis. The search for practically useful PPGs for carbonyl groups was initiated several decades ago. Despite progress in the field, inherent drawbacks of the early approaches hindered their wide utilization in synthetic chemistry and other disciplines.³

Recently, we have developed two novel PPGs for carbonyl protection, α, α -diphenyl-5-methoxysalicyl alcohol (1),⁴ evolved from the triphenylmethyl dye photochemistry, and 3,5-dimethoxysalicyl alcohol (2),⁵ designed on the basis of the excited-state meta effect.⁶ To further enrich the PPG tool box for carbonyl protection and to provide more options for different applications,

herein we report our work on other PPGs for carbonyls. With this extension of our previous work, we were able to sequentially release carbonyl compounds protected with different PPGs by controlling the irradiation wavelength.

Results and Discussion

The first new addition to the toolbox is α, α -diphenyl-3,5dimethoxysalicyl alcohol (3),⁷ another robust PPG for carbonyl protection. When the protection procedures developed for 1 were adopted for 3, protection of carbonyl compounds **4a**-**4e** led to acetals/ketals (**5a**-**5e**) in excellent yields (Table 1). These protection procedures require an acid catalyst. For example, the

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^{(5) (}a) Wang, P.; Hu, H.; Wang, Y. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 2831. (b) Irradiation of acetals formed by **4a** with salicyl alcohol, 5-methoxysalicyl alcohol, and **2** afforded **4a** in 51%, 51%, and 73% yield, respectively, when the photoreactions were carried out in CH₃CN/water for 1 h with a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Vycor filter sleeve.

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(b) Zimmerman, H. E.; Somasekhara, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1963, 85, 922. (c) Zimmerman, H. E. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1995, 117, 8988. (d) Zimmerman, H. E. J. Phys. Chem. A 1998, 102, 5616.

⁽⁷⁾ PPG **3** was readily synthesized from the known 3,5-dimethoxysalicylic acid.⁴

TABLE 1. Protection and Photorelease of Carbonyl Compounds



entry	carbonyls	protection yield (%)	deprotection yield $(\%)^d$	recovered 3 (%) f	irradiation time (min)
1	4a	99 ^a	92 ^e	35	30
2	4b	93 ^b	82	0	44
3	4c	99 ^c	86	39	25
4	4d	99 ^c	88	30	25
5	4e	99 ^c	91	46	25

^{*a*} PPG **3** (0.23 mmol), **4a** (0.2 mmol), and *p*TsOH (0.02 mmol) in 0.8 mL of benzene, 23 °C, 20 h. ^{*b*} PPG **3** (0.3 mmol), **4b** (0.2 mmol), *p*TsOH (0.01 mmol), and MgSO₄ (0.8 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene, 23 °C, 24 h. ^{*c*} PPG **3** (0.3 mmol), carbonyl compound (0.2 mmol), *p*TsOH (0.01 mmol), and P₂O₅ (0.4 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene, 23 °C, 1 h. ^{*d*} Compound **5** (8.0 × 10⁻⁴ M) in CH₃CN with 4–10% (v/v) H₂O was irradiated with a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve (<280 nm) without excluding air. ^{*e*} Isolated as the oxime derivative due to the volatile nature of **4a**. The acetal **5a** is stable under the derivatization conditions. ^{*f*} Isolated yields.

TABLE 2. Comparison of Photochemical Efficiency

entry	PPG	$\epsilon(\lambda)$ of acetal ^{<i>a</i>}	Φ^b	deprotection yield (%) c,d	irradiation time (min)
1	1	4737 (296 nm)	0.11	90	60
2	2	3241 (290 nm)	0.03	81	240
3	3	4169 (297 nm)	0.17	92	30

^{*a*} Extinction coefficient (M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) of the acetal of **4a**. ^{*b*} Quantum yields for producing of **4a** in MeCN/H₂O (9:1) upon irradiation with monochromatic light (centered at 285 nm). ^{*c*} Acetal in MeCN/H₂O (9:1) irradiated with a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex filter sleeve (>280 nm) without excluding air. ^{*d*} Isolated as the oxime derivative due to the volatile nature of **4a**.

aliphatic aldehyde **4a** was conveniently protected in an excellent yield in the presence of $5-10 \mod \%$ of *p*TsOH and a slight excess of **3** (Table 1, entry 1). For ketones, the dehydrating reagent (P₂O₅) was necessary for a fast and quantative protection (Table 1, entries 3-5).

With ready access to acetals/ketals (5a-5e), we studied the photochemical removal of the PPG from 5. In the cases examined (Table 1), photochemical reactions went smoothly to release aldehydes and ketones in high yields, similar to the results obtained with PPGs 1 and 2.^{4,5} It is noteworthy that there are two major improvements of PPG 3 when compared with 1 and 2. One is that the rate of removing 3 was faster than that of removing 1 and 2 under the same irradiation conditions (Table 2). The quantum yields of releasing 4a from protection of 1, 2, and 3 were 0.11, 0.03, and 0.17, respectively.^{8,9} In preparative runs, it took less than 30 min to remove 3, whereas removal of 1 and 2 typically took 60–80 min and 3–4 h, respectively.^{4,5}

SCHEME 1. Mechanism of Deprotection Reactions



The other improvement of the new PPG is that various amounts of PPG 3 were recovered from Pyrex-filtered irradiation of 5 when water was used as a cosolvent. On the contrary, there were no detectable amounts of 1 or 2 in the corresponding photochemical deprotection reactions under the same conditions. Several factors influenced the amounts of recovered 3. For example, the yield of 3 increased with more water present in the reaction solution, but the yields of obtained carbonyl compounds were essentially not affected. Irradiation of 5a and 5e in MeCN/H₂O (9:1) led to 3 in 35% and 46% yield, respectively; the recovery of 3 from 5a increased to 58% in MeCN/H₂O (3:1) and to 68% from 5e in MeCN/H₂O (1:1). We hypothesized that 3 was produced in the reaction of water with the intermediate 7 generated from fragmentation of zwitterion 6 (Scheme 1). Extended exposure of 3 to light caused severe decomposition. For example, irradiation of 5a in MeCN/H₂O (3:1) for 40 min led to only 23% recovered 3, significantly lower than 58% from 30 min of irradiation. Decomposition of 3 via 7 could be a possible pathway, since benzophenone formed in both photoreactions of 5 and pure PPG 3 without deoxygenation.¹⁰ Pisova and co-workers observed formation of benzophenone upon irradiation of various o-fuchsones, which was attributed to [8 + 2] cycloaddition of molecular oxygen to the quinonoid trienone π -system and the subsequent fragmentations

^{(8) (}a) Quantum yields were determined by chemical actinometry. Defoin, A.; Defoin-Straatmann, R.; Hildenbrand, K.; Bittersmann, E.; Kreft, D.; Kuhn, H. J. J. Photochem. **1986**, *33*, 237. (b) The monochromatic light centering at 285 nm (and opaque above 325 nm and below 250 nm) was obtained by passing light from a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp through three quartz cuvettes containing 2 M NiSO₄ in 5% H₂SO₄ (cell 1), 0.8 M CoSO₄ in 5% H₂SO₄ (cell 2), and 2.46 \times 10⁻⁴ M BiCl₃ in concentrated HCl/H₂O (2:3) (cell 3).⁹ (c) The monochromatic light centering at 330 nm (and opaque above 368 nm and below 292 nm) was obtained by passing light from a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp through a filter solution in a quartz cuvette. The filter solution was prepared by dissolving NiSO₄·7H₂O (11.2 g), CoSO₄·7H₂O (5.5 g), CuSO₄·5H₂O, and KNO₃ (0.5 g) in 25 mL of 10% H₂SO₄.⁹

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⁽¹⁰⁾ PPG 3 (0.2 mmol) in 250 mL of CH₃CN/H₂O (9:1) was irradiated with a Pyrex-filtered 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp for 10 min, and an unknown compound formed (unknown/3 = 1:1). The characteristic ¹H NMR peaks of this unknown are 5.98 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.74 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), and 3.54 (s, 3 H). After another 15 min of irradiation, the unknown compound decomposed and a significant amount of benzophenone formed, along with a complex mixture of other unknowns.

TABLE 3. Stability of 5a under Various Conditions

entry	reagent ^a	solvent	conditions	5a (%) ^c
1	PhLi ^b	THF	−78 to 23 °C, 6 h	100
2	LiAlH ₄	THF	23 °C, 24 h	100
3	$NaBH_4$	THF	23 °C, 24 h	100
4	H ₂ , Pd/C ^{d}	THF	23 °C, 18 h	100
5	t-BuOK	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	100
6	DDQ	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	94
7	CAN	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	0
			80 °C, 2 h	0
8	AcOH	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	100
9	TFA	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	91
10	HCl (37%)	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	65
11	<i>p</i> TsOH	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	47
			80 °C, 2 h	0

^{*a*} Acetal **5a** (0.01 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeCN or THF treated with reagent (>0.20 mmol). ^{*b*} Acetal **5a** (0.05 mmol) in 1.0 mL of dry THF treated with 0.4 mL of PhLi (2.0 M in Bu₂O) under argon. ^{*c*} Yields determined by ¹H NMR. ^{*d*} Acetal **5a** (0.02 mmol) in 2.0 mL of THF.

of the resulting 1,2,3-trioxanaphthalene.¹¹ When the photoreactions were conducted under nitrogen, the production of benzophenone from **5** and **3** diminished. With **5b**, PPG **3** was not observed after 44 min of irradiation (Table 1, entry 2) and was observed in only <10% (based on released **4b**) after 10 min of irradiation (with conversion of **5b** > 50%). Presumably, the decomposition pathway of **3** was altered in the presence of **4b**. Indeed, irradiation of PPG **3** with 1 equiv of **4b** in CD₃CN/ D₂O (9:1) for only 10 min led to decomposition of more than 80% **3** to a complex mixture.¹² Without **4b**, only 37% **3** was consumed under the same irradiation conditions and was converted mainly to an unknown compound that was also observed in a larger scale run.¹⁰

The obtained acetals/ketals (5a-5e) displayed a useful range of dark stability toward various chemical reagents and were stable under laboratory lighting (Table 3, exemplified with 5a). Acetal 5a withstood mild acid conditions (Table 3, entries 8-10) yet was susceptible in the presence of excess *p*TsOH (entry 11). However, the electron-rich aromatic system of 5a did not survive strong oxidation conditions, and the acetal completely decomposed upon treatment with cerium ammonium nitrate (CAN).

Structural modification of the salicyl alcohol chromophore by changing the position and nature of the substituents resulted in more PPGs with considerably different photochemical properties. For comparison, acetals of 3-phenylpropanal (**4a**) with these PPGs were prepared and studied (Table 4). Irradiation with Pyrex-filtered light for 30 min released more **4a** from **5a** (with two *meta* methoxyl groups) than from **8** (with one *meta* methoxyl group).⁴ Without a *meta* methoxyl group, acetal **9** released much less **4a** (only 5%). For acetal **10**, most of the acetal (>99%) was recovered under the same irradiation conditions. However, 10 min of irradiation with Vycor-filtered light (>210 nm) led to efficient release of **4a** from acetals **5a** and **8–10** in high yields. With a dimethylamino auxochrome in the PPGs, there is a notable bathochromic shift of the UV bands of both acetal **11** (with a *para* amino group) and **12** (with



$\begin{array}{c} {\sf R}_3 \\ {\sf R}_2 \\ {\sf P}_1 \\ {\sf H}_2 \\$						
	5a	8	9	10	a 11	12
Pyrex	92 ^c	88 ^c	5 ^c	<1°	87 ^d	99 ^d
Vycor	96^e	99^e	92^e	82^e		

^{*a*} Irradiated with a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp equipped with a Pyrex or a Vycor filter sleeve without excluding air, with the substrate concentration of 8.0×10^{-4} M in CH₃CN/H₂O (9:1) (v/v). ^{*b*} Isolated as the oxime. ^{*c*} 30 min of irradiation. ^{*d*} 16 min of irradiation.





a meta amino group), when compared with their counterparts having a methoxyl auxochrome (9 and 8, Figure 1). Pyrexfiltered irradiation of 11 and 12 for 16 min provided 4a in 87% and 99% yield, respectively. These data along with the UV spectra of the acetals (Figure 1, $c = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M) suggested that the auxochrome(s) located at different position(s) of the salicyl alcohol skeleton mainly affected the photolysis by changing chromophore absorption profiles. Nonetheless, the meta effect also influenced the reaction outcome to some extent, as shown in the photoreaction of 12 versus 11 (99% vs 87%) and 8 versus 9 (99% vs 92%) under the same conditions. Since the photochemical removal of 2 to release 4a (Table 1) was significantly slower than the photoreactions of acetals 5a and 8-12, the two benzylic phenyl groups of the salicyl alcohol skeleton seemed to have a more important role in facilitating the benzylic C–O bond cleavage than the *meta* effect.

Among various new PPGs studied, α, α -diphenyl-5-(dimethylamino)salicyl alcohol (14) used in acetal 12 appeared to be more robust, with higher potential for biological applications due to its longer absorption wavelength and good photochemical efficiency ($\Phi = 0.13$).^{8,9} PPG 14 was readily prepared from the commercially available 5-aminosalicylic acid (13) (Scheme 2). Installation of 14 onto 4a was relatively inefficient at room temperature, but reflux in toluene afforded the desired acetal 12 in 94% yield.

As anticipated, on one hand, acetal 12 was more stable than 5a upon acid treatment (Table 5). Presumably the inductive effect from protonated dimethylamino group in 12 made acid-activation of acetal oxygens and subsequent heterolysis of a C-O bond more difficult. On the other hand, acetal 12 became more susceptible toward oxidants, degrading completely upon the DDQ treatment at room temperature, whereas 5a remained intact under the same conditions.

⁽¹¹⁾ Pisova, M.; Soucek, M. *Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun.* **1982**, 47, 3318. (12) The small scale runs were conducted in quartz cuvettes, with **3** (2.7 mg, 8×10^{-3} mmol) in 2.0 mL of solvent with Pyrex-filtered light from a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp.

SCHEME 2. Synthesis and Application of PPG 14



TABLE 5. Stability of 12 under Acidic Conditions

entry	reagent ^a	solvent	conditions	12 (%) ^b
1	AcOH	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
2	TFA	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	100
			80 °C, 2 h	99
3	HCl (37%)	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	96
			80 °C, 2 h	91
4	pTsOH	MeCN	23 °C, 24 h	89
			80 °C, 2 h	44

 a Acetal 12 (0.01 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeCN treated with reagent (>0.2 mmol). b Yields determined by $^1{\rm H}$ NMR.

SCHEME 3. Selective Removal of PPG

5b + 12	hυ		5b	+ Ph CHO
	MeCN/H ₂ O (1:1)			
		350 nm, 20 min	: 98%	>89%
		sunlight, 3h	98%	>96%

The relatively distinct absorption maximum of acetal 12 at $327 \text{ nm} (\epsilon = 3.38 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1})$ compared with others below 310 nm (Figure 1) suggested that selective removal of 14 in the presence of other PPGs such as 3 could be feasible by control of the irradiation wavelength. Indeed, irradiation of 5a at 350 nm in MeCN/H₂O (9:1) for 20 min in a Rayonet reactor only led to recovery of unreacted 5a in 97% yield. Under the same conditions, released aldehyde 4a from 12 was obtained in 96% yield (after conversion to its oxime derivative due to the volatile nature of 4a). A mixture of 5b and 12 (1:1) in MeCN/H₂O (9: 1) was also irradiated at 350 nm for 20 min, leading to 4a in 89% yield after derivatization and recovered 5b in 98% yield (Scheme 3). Interestingly, the same selectivity could be achieved with sunlight, even though acetal 12 was stable as a solid and in solutions under laboratory lighting. Thus, **5b** and **12** (1:1) in MeCN/H2O (9:1) were exposed to sunlight for 3 h, resulting in 96% released 4a from 12 (after derivatizing) and 98% recovered 5b.

In summary, a group of structurally simple PPGs for carbonyl compounds have been developed. These PPGs were readily prepared, demonstrated high protection/deprotection efficiencies, and furthermore displayed excellent dark stability. The diversity of new PPGs allowed highly efficient sequential removal of PPGs by control of the irradiation wavelength.

Experimental Section

Preparation of α , α -**Diphenyl-3,5-dimethoxysalicyl Alcohol** (3). The known compound 3,5-dimethoxysalicylic acid⁵ was refluxed in MeOH in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ for 3 days. The reaction mixture was cooled and concentrated. Flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 7:1, R_f 0.37)

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afforded the methyl ester. The ester (2.19 g, 10 mmol) in 15 mL of THF was treated with PhLi (22.5 mL, 2.0 M in Bu₂O) slowly and stirred at -78 °C under Ar for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified with flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1, R_f 0.5) to provide **3** in 99% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.33–7.24 (m, 10 H), 6.47 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.92 (s, 1 H), 5.70 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.07 (s, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.54 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 152.2, 147.4, 145.9, 137.5, 132.7, 127.84, 127.79, 127.3, 106.8, 98.2, 82.3, 56.2, 55.5; IR (neat) 3502, 3059, 2941, 2838, 1600, 1490, 1449, 1429, 1372, 1317, 1229; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₄Na (M + Na⁺) 359.1259, found 359.1258.

Preparation of Acetal 5a. PPG **3** (79.0 mg, 0.23 mmol), 3-phenylpropanal (**4a**) (27.8 μL, 0.20 mmol), and *p*TsOH (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol) in 1 mL of benzene were stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 7/1, R_f 0.33) to yield **5a** (92 mg, 99%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.44–7.12 (m, 13 H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 3.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H), 3.60 (s, 3 H), 2.87–2.79 (m, 1 H), 2.70–2.60 (m, 1 H), 2.33–2.21 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 152.7, 149.0, 146.0, 144.2, 141.4, 136.8, 129.5, 128.4, 128.24, 128.18, 128.05, 127.9, 127.5, 125.9, 125.7, 104.6, 98.8, 94.7, 84.3, 56.0, 55.5, 35.9, 29.7; IR (neat) 3059, 3027, 2935, 2837, 1602, 1491, 1450, 1402, 1359, 1338, 1280, 1233; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₀H₂₉O₄ (M + H⁺) 453.2066, found 453.2070.

Preparation of Acetal 5b. PPG 3 (103 mg, 0.30 mmol), 4-phenoxybenzaldehyde (4b) (37.5 µL, 0.20 mmol), pTsOH (1.9 mg, 0.01mmol), and MgSO₄ (100 mg, 0.80 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene were stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 7/1, $R_f 0.60$) to yield **5b** (95 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.54 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 2 H), 7.39-7.21 (m, 10H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.02-6.98(m, 4 H), 6.44 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.00 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.91 (s, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.60 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 157.9, 157.0, 152.8, 149.2, 145.6, 144.0, 136.8, 132.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 125.8, 123.3, 119.0, 118.6, 104.5, 98.8, 94.5, 85.1, 56.0, 55.5; IR (neat) 3059, 2937, 2837, 1592, 1510, 1490, 1386, 1357, 1280, 1236, 1200; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₃₄H₂₈NaO₅ (M + Na⁺) 539.1834, found 539.1832.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Ketals 5c, 5d, and 5e under Acidic Condition with a Dehydrating Reagent. PPG 3 (103 mg, 0.30 mmol), ketone 4c-4e (0.20 mmol), *p*TsOH (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol), and P₂O₅ (60 mg, 0.40 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene were stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography.

5c (isomer A): 74%, R_f 0.50 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9/1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.36–7.15 (m, 15 H), 6.44 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.00 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.60 (s, 3 H), 2.49 (tt, J = 12.3, 3.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.13 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.93 (qd, J = 13.0, 3.1 Hz, 2 H), 1.71 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2 H), 1.56 (td, J = 13.2, 4.0 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 153.2, 150.3, 146.8, 146.4, 134.3, 128.6, 128.39, 128.37, 127.8, 127.4, 126.9, 126.5, 126.1, 104.9, 101.4, 99.1, 81.5, 56.3, 55.6, 43.2, 36.3, 30.6; IR (neat) 3060, 3027, 2936, 2862, 2838, 1604, 1492, 1447, 1336, 1284, 1230, 1200; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₃₃H₃₃O₄ (M + H⁺) 493.2379, found 493.2380.

5c (isomer B): 25%, R_f 0.30 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9/1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.45–7.41 (m, 4 H), 7.34–7.23 (m, 8 H), 7.19–7.09 (m, 3H), 6.43 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.08 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 3.63 (s, 3 H), 2.51 (tt, J = 11.2,

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4.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.23 (dd, J = 10.8, 3.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.78 (dt, J = 13.0, 4.7 Hz, 2 H), 1.59–1.43 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 153.0, 149.9, 146.7, 146.6, 134.4, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 126.8, 125.9, 104.5, 101.4, 98.8, 81.3, 56.1, 55.5, 43.3, 35.9, 29.8; IR (neat) 3059, 3026, 2935, 2861, 1604, 1492, 1449, 1337, 1284, 1240, 1200; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₃H₃₃O₄ (M + H⁺) 493.2379, found 493.2381.

5d: 99%, R_f 0.47 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9/1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.41 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 8 H), 6.41 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.02 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.61 (s, 3 H), 1.82–1.78 (m, 2 H), 1.43–1.39(m, 2 H), 1.30–1.16 (m, 31 H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.9, 150.2, 147.6, 146.5, 135.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 126.5, 105.2, 103.0, 99.1, 81.4, 56.5, 55.9, 41.2, 32.4, 30.2, 30.1, 30.04, 29.97, 29.8, 25.2, 24.1, 23.2, 14.6; IR (neat) 2923, 2852, 1595, 1491, 1466, 1379, 1340, 1248, 1200; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₄₀H₅₇O₄ (M + H⁺) 601.4257, found 601.4266.

5e, 99%, R_f 0.57 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.42 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.30–7.22 (m, 8 H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.42 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 3.61 (s, 3 H), 2.83–2.66 (m, 2 H), 2.18–2.05 (m, 2 H), 1.31 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 156.6, 151.7, 148.8, 146.0, 144.8, 133.3, 133.0, 128.3, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 126.4, 126.3, 125.5, 112.6, 103.7, 101.2, 97.7, 80.2, 55.0, 54.5, 54.2, 41.7, 28.0, 24.0; IR (neat) 2998, 2938, 2835, 1609, 1512, 1491, 1465, 1376, 1339, 1279, 1245, 1200; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₃₂NaO₅ (M + Na⁺) 519.2147, found 519.2144.

General Procedure of Photolysis. Ketal/acetal 5 (0.20 mmol) in 225 mL of acetonitrile and 25 mL of water was irradiated with a 450 W medium pressure mercury lamp filtered with a Pyrex sleeve without excluding air (for 5d, 240 mL of acetonitrile and 10 mL of water were used because of the solubility limitation). The reaction mixture was then concentrated, and the residue was subject to flash column chromatography. For volatile 3-phenylpropanal (4a), derivatization is necessary prior to chromatography. Thus, to the reaction solution was added HONH₂·HCl (1.112 g, 16.0 mmol) and NaOAc (1.690 g, 19.2 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, concentrated, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography to provide the corresponding oxime derivative.

Selective Removal of 14 with 350 nm Wavelength Irradiation. In 225 mL of MeCN and 25 mL of H₂O were dissolved 5b (51.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) and 12 (43.6 mg, 0.1 mmol). The obtained colorless solution was irradiated in a Rayonet photoreactor equipped with 350 nm lamps for 20 min. The resulting purple color reaction mixture was then derivatized with NaOAc and HONH₂·HCl as describe above. The crude products were purified with flash column chromatography, eluted with petroleum/ethyl acetate (5:1) to provide the oxime of 4a (13 mg, 89%) and unreacted 5b (50 mg, 98%).

Selective Removal of 14 with Sunlight. In 225 mL of MeCN and 25 mL of H₂O were dissolved **5b** (51.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **12** (43.5 mg, 0.1 mmol). The obtained colorless solution was exposed to outdoor sunlight for 3 h, and a purple solution was obtained. Derivatization and workup as described above afforded oxime of **4a** (14 mg, 96%) and unreacted **5b** (50 mg, 98%).

Preparation of Acetal 9. A solution of commercially available methyl 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzoate (558 mg, 3.0mmol) in 8.0 mL of freshly distilled THF was added into PhLi (6.0 mL, 2 M in Bu₂O) dropwise at -78 °C under argon, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and at room temperature for 2 h. Ice-cooled saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added to quench the reaction. The reaction mixture was adjusted to slightly acidic and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, R_f 0.30) to yield

the PPG α,α-diphenyl- 4-methoxysalicyl alcohol (911 mg, 99%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.21 (s, 1 H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 6 H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 4 H), 6.49 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.29 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.48 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 160.8, 157.4, 145.0, 130.7, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 122.4, 105.1, 102.7, 84.3, 55.3; IR (neat) 3455, 3178, 2962, 1614, 1587, 1515, 1491, 1432, 1377, 1297, 1235; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₈NaO₃ (M + Na⁺) 329.1154, found 329.1154.

The obtained PPG α , α -diphenyl-4-methoxysalicyl alcohol (92) mg, 0.30 mmol), 3-phenylpropanal 4a (27.8 µL, 0.20 mmol), and pTsOH (1.9 mg, 0.01mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene were stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 20/1, R_f 0.28) to yield 9 (83 mg, 98%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.33 (m, 5 H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 5 H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.71(d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.03 (dd, J = 5.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 2.86 - 2.67 (m, 2 H), 2.25 - 2.09 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 160.0, 153.7, 146.8, 144.9, 141.9, 130.9, 129.9, 128.84, 128.78, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 126.3, 118.2, 108.1, 101.7, 95.1, 84.5, 55.7, 36.6, 30.0; IR (neat) 3448, 3060, 3028, 2932, 1620, 1583, 1501, 1447, 1399, 1359, 1327, 1258, 1201; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₉H₂₇O₃(M + H⁺) 423.1960, found 423.1957.

Preparation of Acetal 10. Commercially available 2,3,4trihydroxybenzoic acid (0.47 g, 2.75 mmol), K₂CO₃ (1.52 g, 11 mmol), and MeI (1.03 mL, 16.5 mmol) were stirred in 10 mL of dry DMF at room temperature for 68 h. The reaction mixture was adjusted to pH 4–5 with 1 N HCl, extracted with EtOAc (50 mL \times 2), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, *R_f* 0.28) to yield methyl 2-hydroxy-3,4-dimethoxy-benzoate (234 mg, 40%).

Into a solution of PhLi (2.1 mL, 2 M in Bu₂O) was added a solution of the obtained methyl 2-hydroxy-3,4-dimethoxy-benzoate (222 mg, 1.05 mmol) in 3 mL of freshly distilled THF dropwise at -78 °C under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and at room temperature for 2 h and then was quenched with ice-cooled saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL \times 2), and the combined organic layers were was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1, $R_f 0.33$) to yield the PPG α, α -diphenyl-3,4-dimethoxysalicyl alcohol (346 mg, 98%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.27-7.21 (m, 10 H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.25 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.5, 148.0, 146.5, 136.5, 128.32, 128.29, 128.26, 127.7, 126.4, 125.0, 102.9, 82.7, 61.4, 56.2; IR (neat) 3370, 2955, 2845, 1677, 1630, 1593, 1512, 1439, 1369, 1297, 1251, 1233, 1212; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₀NaO₄ (M + Na⁺) 359.1259, found 359.1255.

The PPG (103 mg, 0.30 mmol), 3-phenylpropanal 4a (27.8 μ L, 0.20 mmol), and pTsOH (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene were stirred at room temperature for 12.5 h. The mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO3 and extracted with CH2Cl2 (15 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 9/1, R_f 0.50) to yield **10** (89 mg, 98%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.33 (m, 5 H), 7.28-7.07 (m, 10 H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (dd, J = 5.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.86 - 2.73 (m, 2 H), 2.28 - 2.21 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.4, 147.1, 146.8, 144.8, 141.8, 137.3, 129.9, 128.84, 128.79, 128.54, 128.53, 128.49, 128.3, 127.9, 126.3, 124.7, 119.8, 104.6, 95.3, 84.5, 61.4, 56.4, 36.6, 30.1; IR (neat) 3060, 3027, 2934, 2835, 1610, 1498, 1460, 1400, 1355, 1289, 1259, 1238, 1209; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{29}O_4$ (M + H⁺) 453.2066, found 453.2068.

Preparation of Acetal 11. Commercially available 4-aminosalicylic acid (1.55 g, 10.0 mmol), NaHCO3 (4.2 g, 50.0 mmol) and MeI (2.49 mL, 40.0 mmol) were stirred in 15 mL of DMF at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was acidified with 1 N HCl to pH 4–5, extracted with EtOAc (50 mL \times 2), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, R_f 0.28) to yield methyl 4-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoate (777 mg, 40%). Into a solution of PhLi (2.0 mL, 2 M in Bu₂O) was added a solution of methyl 4-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoate (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 3 mL freshly distilled THF dropwise, at -78 °C under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and at room temperature for 2 h, and then was quenched with ice-cooled saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1, $R_f 0.20$) to yield the PPG α , α diphenyl-4-(dimethylamino)salicyl alcohol (315 mg, 99%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.37–7.29 (m, 6 H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 4H), 6.33 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.10 $(dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.49 - 3.42 (m, 1 H), 2.92 (s, 6H); {}^{13}C$ NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 156.9, 151.8, 145.5, 130.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.7, 118.3, 103.3, 101.1, 84.2, 40.3, 31.0; IR (neat) 3164, 3058, 2909, 1621, 1565, 1528, 1487, 1445, 1366, 1300, 1236; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{22}NO_2$ (M + H⁺) 320.1651, found 320.1649.

The PPG (98 mg, 0.30 mmol), 3-phenylpropanal 4a (27.8 μ L, 0.20 mmol), pTsOH (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol), and P2O5 (60 mg, 0.8 mmol) in 1.0 mL of benzene was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h. The mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1, R_f 0.25) to yield 11 (43 mg, 49%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.42-7.04 (m, 15 H), 6.66 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.26 - 6.23 (m, 2H), 5.03 (dd, J = 6.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.88 - 2.65 (m, 8 H), 2.26 - 2.05 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 153.2, 150.7, 146.8, 145.0, 141.6, 130.3, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 125.8, 113.8, 105.7, 99.8, 94.6, 84.1, 40.4, 36.4, 29.7; IR(neat) 3059, 3027, 2929, 2802, 1623, 1564, 1516, 1492, 1447, 1399, 1366, 1314, 1278, 1240; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{30}NO_2$ (M + H⁺) 436.2277, found 436.2276.

Preparation of Acetal 12. The commercially available 5-aminosalicylic acid (1.55 g, 10.0 mmol) was refluxed in 10 mL of MeOH in the presence of H_2SO_4 (0.3 mL) for 26 h. After solvent was removed, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ was added into the mixture to adjust the pH to 8–9.The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 3), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to yield methyl 5-amino-2-hydroxybenzoate (162 mg, 96%).

Into the mixture of methyl 5-amino-2-hydroxybenzoate (1.50 g, 9.0 mmol), paraformaldehyde (2.70 g, 90 mmol), and NaBH₃CN (1.805 g, 27 mmol) was added AcOH (90 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h and then concentrated. Saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ was poured into the mixture to adjust the pH to 7–8. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL \times 3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to yield methyl 5-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoate (1.72 g, 98%)

Into a solution of PhLi (0.9 mL, 2 M in Bu₂O) was added a solution of methyl 5-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoate (54 mg, 0.28mmol) in 1 mL of freshly distilled THF dropwise, at -78 °C under argon. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and at room temperature for 2 h and then was quenched with ice-cooled saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, R_f 0.43) to yield PPG 14, α , α diphenyl- 5-(dimethylamino)salicyl alcohol (81 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (CD₃SOCD₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.04 (s, 1H), 7.33–7.18 (m, 10 H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (dd, J = 8.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (s, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃SOCD₃, 75 MHz) δ 146.9, 146.2, 143.4, 132.2, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 116.6, 115.2, 113.6, 81.9, 41.0; IR (neat) 3408, 3058, 2909, 1625, 1494, 1447, 1239; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{22}NO_2$ (M + H⁺) 320.1651, found 320.1647.

PPG 14 (128 mg, 0.40 mmol), 3-phenylpropanal 4a (27.8 μL, 0.20 mmol), and pTsOH (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol) in 2.0 mL of toluene were refluxed under Ar for 35 h. The mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated for flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 5/1, $R_f 0.50$) to yield **12** (82 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.49–7.07 (m, 15 H), 6.87 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, J = 6.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.91 - 2.67 (m, 8 H), 2.29 - 2.09 (m, 100)2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 146.4, 144.8, 144.7, 144.6, 141.6, 129.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 125.7, 125.4, 117.3, 114.8, 114.4, 94.3, 84.4, 41.5, 36.2, 29.7; IR (neat) 3060, 3028, 2929, 2884, 2795, 1620, 1504, 1447, 1400, 1361, 1240; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{30}NO_2$ (M + H⁺) 436.2277, found 436.2276.

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Supporting Information Available: UV, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR Spectra of **3**, **5a**–**5e**, **9**–**12**, and **14**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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