

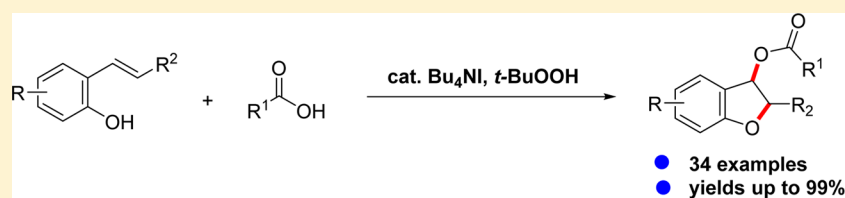
# Metal-Free Coupling of 2-Vinylphenols and Carboxylic Acids: An Access to 3-Acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans

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**S** Supporting Information



**ABSTRACT:** A new coupling reaction between 2-vinylphenols and carboxylic acids was developed to synthesize 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans using  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  as a catalyst and  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  as an oxidant. This simple and practical methodology is notable due to the ability to complete it under metal-free conditions, with easily available precursors, resulting in a product with high atom economy and high functional group tolerance. Upon the basis of experimental observations and literature, a plausible mechanism is proposed.

## INTRODUCTION

2,3-Dihydrobenzofurans are unique structural motifs that can be found in nature, as well as pharmacological molecules.<sup>1</sup> Among the various 2,3-dihydrobenzofurans, 3-substituted derivatives have drawn considerable interest due to exhibiting outstanding biologically active properties such as prostaglandin (PG) D2 receptor antagonists,<sup>2</sup> and  $\gamma$ -secretase inhibitors (GSIs).<sup>3</sup> The conventional approach toward synthesizing these compounds include hydrogenation of substituted benzofurans,<sup>4</sup> C–H bond insertion–cyclization,<sup>5</sup> and Michael addition.<sup>6</sup> Recently, much attention has been focused toward the direct difunctionalization of alkenes, which represent an atom economic protocol for the synthesis of 3-substituted-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans.<sup>7</sup> Fu<sup>8a</sup> and Brown<sup>8b</sup> elegantly generated the  $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--M}$  complex through sequential carbometalation of arylboron reagents that bear a pendant olefin, then subsequently coupling the complex with halides (Scheme 1, path a). Apart from ionic methods, a radical process involving an intramolecular 5-*exo*-cyclization has also been explored to construct 3-substituted-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans, as demonstrated by several groups (Scheme 1, path b).<sup>9</sup> Despite these contributions, further successful development of simple and efficient strategies for the construction of 3-substituted-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans will be greatly valuable to the field.

The acyloxy group is of great interest due to its importance in medicinal molecules<sup>10</sup> and possibility for further chemical modification. However, only few methods have been developed to introduce acyloxy group into dihydrobenzofurans at the 3-position, including palladium-catalyzed acyloxyarylation of benzofurans<sup>11</sup> and acyl migration–cyclization of substituted bromoacetophenones.<sup>12</sup> Recently, oxidative coupling carboxylic

acids with  $\text{sp}^3$  or  $\text{sp}^2$  C–H bond via iodine-catalysis have been reported in literature;<sup>13</sup> this has been successfully achieved in our lab.<sup>13f,13l</sup> Zhu<sup>14</sup> and Sudalai<sup>15</sup> also reported an iodine-catalyzed acyloxylation of alkenes. Herein, we report a simple and practical coupling reaction between 2-vinylphenols and carboxylic acids for the synthesis of 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans using  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  as a catalyst and  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  as an oxidant (Scheme 1, path c).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

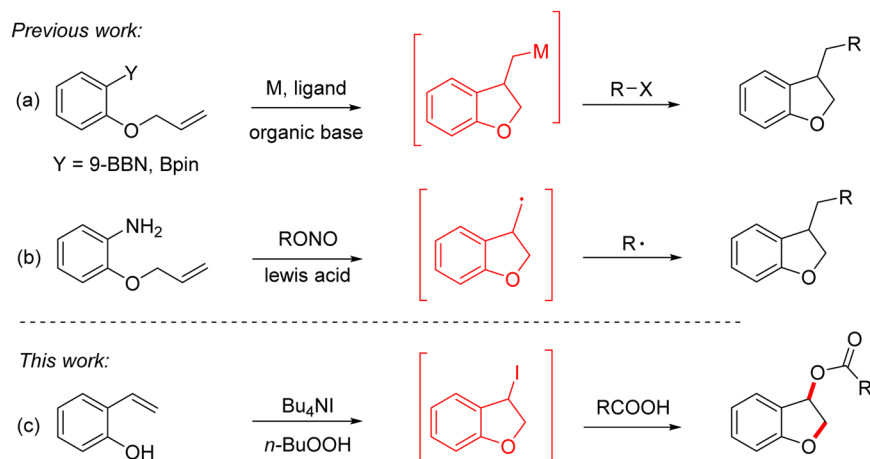
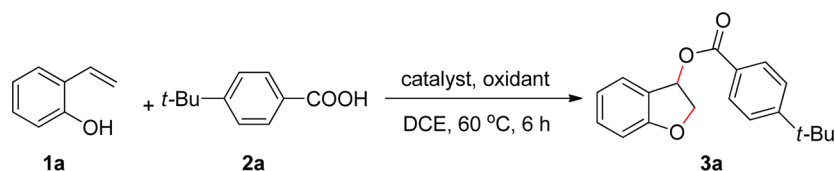
The reaction of 2-vinylphenol **1a** with 4-*tert*-butyl benzoic acid **2a** was chosen as a model reaction to identify the reaction conditions for the synthesis of 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans. After extensive screening over a wide range, it was determined that the combination of  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (10 mol %) and  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (1.5 equiv, 70% aqueous solution) in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) at 60 °C for 6 h in air was the most effective configuration, producing the desired 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(*tert*-butyl)benzoate **3a** in 99% yield (Table 1, entry 1). The choice of oxidant was crucial for this transformation; replacing  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  with other common oxidants, such as oxone, DDQ, benzoquinone,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , and  $\text{O}_2$ , suppressed or decreased yield (Table 1, entries 2–6). No product **3a** was observed in the absence of  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  or  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (Table 1, entries 7 and 8). Replacing  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  with  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NCl}$ ,  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}$ , and  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NOH}$  showed no positive activity (Table 1, entries 9–11). The use of other quaternary ammonium iodides, such as  $\text{Me}_4\text{NI}$  and  $\text{Me}_3\text{BnNI}$  resulted in lower yields (Table 1, entries 14 and

Received: August 20, 2015

Published: October 12, 2015

## Scheme 1. Difunctionalization of Alkenes for the Synthesis of 3-Substituted-2,3-Dihydrobenzofurans

## Dihydrobenzofurans

Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

entry	catalyst	oxidant	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	99
2	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	oxone <sup>c</sup>	<5
3	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	DDQ <sup>d</sup>	<5
4	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	benzoquinone	<5
5	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> <sup>e</sup>	49
6	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>f</sup>	<5
7	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI	-	<5
8	-	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
9	Bu <sub>4</sub> NCl	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
10	Bu <sub>4</sub> NBr	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
11	Bu <sub>4</sub> NOH	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
12	KI	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
13	I <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
14	Me <sub>4</sub> NI	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	72
15	Me <sub>3</sub> BnNI	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	34
16	CuI	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
17	PhI(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
18	NaIO <sub>4</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5
19	NIS	<i>t</i> -BuOOH	<5

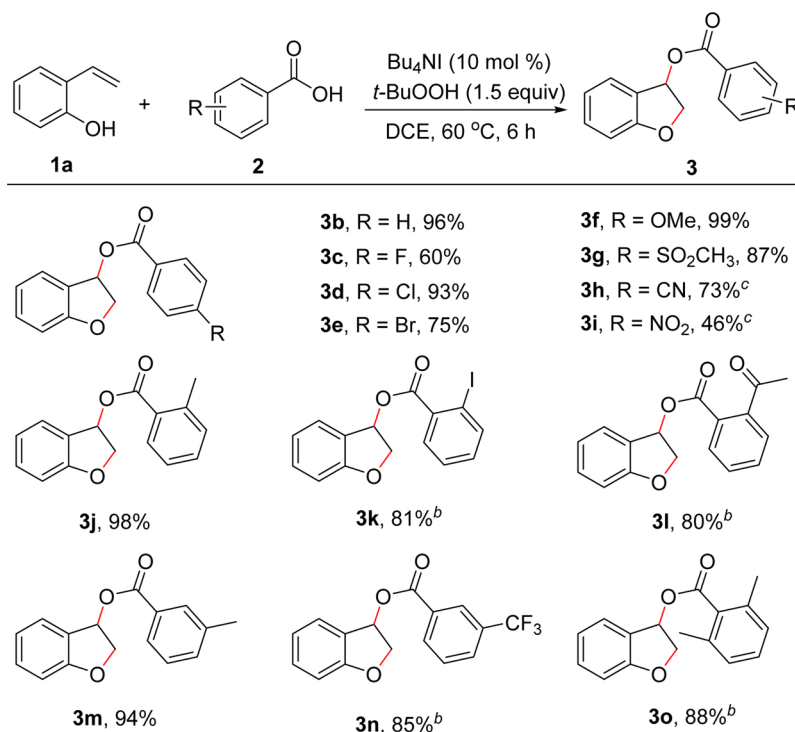
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.7 mmol), **2a** (0.5 mmol), catalyst (10 mol %), oxidant (1.5 equiv), DCE (1.0 mL) under air, at 60 °C for 6 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>Oxone, potassium peroxymonosulfate. <sup>d</sup>DDQ, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone. <sup>e</sup>H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 30% in water. <sup>f</sup>Under an oxygen atmosphere (1.0 atm).

15). Interestingly, no **3a** was formed in the presence of catalytic KI, I<sub>2</sub>, PhI(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, NaIO<sub>4</sub>, and NIS (Table 1, entries 12, 13, and 17–19). Notably, the addition of a metal catalyst, such as CuI, suppressed the transformation (Table 1, entry 16).

With the use of the optimized reaction conditions, a variety of substituted aryl carboxylic acids were tested to probe the versatility of the catalytic system (Scheme 2). Benzoic acids bearing either electron-donating groups or electron-withdrawing groups all produced corresponding 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans in moderate to excellent yields. Generally, benzoic acids bearing electron-withdrawing substituents pro-

duced corresponding products but with decreased yields (**3c**–**3e**, **3g**–**3i**). When 2,6-dimethylbenzoic acid was reacted with 2-vinylphenol, the steric effect was noticeable, and the reaction required higher amounts of catalyst and oxidant. Additionally, a high level of functional group tolerance was observed, such as halogen (**3c**–**3e**, **3k**), methoxyl (**3f**), sulfone (**3g**), cyano (**3h**), nitro (**3i**), keto (**3l**), and trifluoromethyl (**3n**). The exact structure of **3f** was unequivocally confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (Figure S1 in Supporting Information).

To further investigate the potential of this methodology, other types of carboxylic acids were applied to this process. The

Scheme 2. Scope of Aryl Carboxylic Acids<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>1a (0.7 mmol), 2 (0.5 mmol),  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (10 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (1.5 equiv), DCE (1.0 mL) under air, at 60 °C for 6 h. <sup>b</sup> $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (20 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used. <sup>c</sup> $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (50 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used.

results are summarized in Scheme 3. A series of aliphatic carboxylic were reacted with 2-vinylphenol 2a, providing the corresponding products at excellent yields (4c–4f). Treatment with heteroaryl acids, including indazole and thiophene, also resulted in the production of 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans in moderate to excellent yields (4i–4g). Interestingly, when phenylglyoxylic acid was used as the reaction partner, it provided the 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl benzoate 3b in the yield of 86% via decarbonylation.<sup>16</sup>

Next, various 2-vinylphenols were examined for this transformation; they are presented in Scheme 4. Broad functionality tolerance was observed again, including bromo (5a), chloro (5b), nitro (5d), and methoxyl (5e). The use of substituents on terminal of 2-vinylphenols was also acceptable in the present system, resulting in products at excellent yields (5g–5h).

3-Iodo-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran was detected using LC–MS (Scheme 5a). Further investigation using control experiments were conducted to gain mechanistic insight into this reaction. When 2,2,6,6-tetra-methylpiperidine-*N*-oxyl (TEMPO), a well-known radical scavenger, was added to the reaction, product 3a was isolated with a high yield of 97% (Scheme 5b), suggesting this 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans formation reaction is not a radical process. The in situ generation of hypiodite results in the desired product 3a at 52% yield (Scheme 5c). Interestingly, only trace amounts of 3a were generated in the presence of KI (Table 1, entry 12). When the  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NCl}$  was added to the reaction as a phase transfer catalyst, product 3a was isolated at 91% yield, suggesting that  $\text{Bu}_4\text{N}^+$  was pivotal for this transformation (Scheme 5d).

On the basis of these observations and previous relevant studies, a plausible mechanism was proposed, as shown in Scheme 6. The active species,  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NOI}$  A, which is generated in

situ from  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  in the presence of  $t\text{-BuOOH}$ ,<sup>13g,13i,17</sup> reacts with 2-vinylphenol 1a to give iodonium ion B.<sup>18</sup> Intramolecular cyclization of B generated the 3-iodo-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran C, which underwent nucleophilic substitution by carboxylic acid to release the desired 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans.

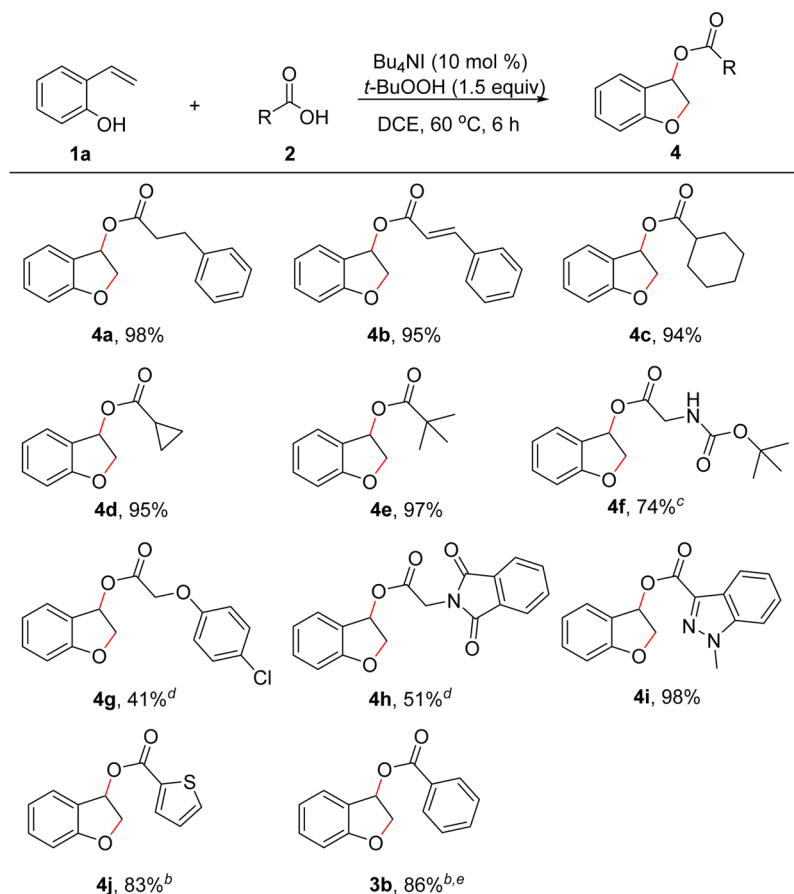
## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we have successfully developed an efficient  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$ -catalyzed coupling of 2-vinylphenols with carboxylic acids, producing the 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran derivatives in moderate to excellent yields. Considering the ease of synthesis of 2-vinylphenols and the low cost of  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  and  $t\text{-BuOOH}$ , this reaction represents a simple and practical access to introduce an acyloxy group to 2,3-dihydrobenzofurans. This study is currently being expanded with efforts to develop an asymmetric version of the synthesis of 3-acyloxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Information.** All manipulations were carried out under air atmosphere. Column chromatography was generally performed on silica gel (300–400 mesh) and reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using UV light to visualize the course of the reactions. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) data were recorded with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent at room temperature. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants ( $J$ ) in hertz (Hz). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded with tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) as internal reference; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta = 77.00$  ppm) as internal reference.

**General Procedures for the Synthesis of 3a–3o, 4a–4j, 5a–5h.** Carboxylic acids (0.5 mmol), 2-vinylphenols (0.7 mmol), tetrabutylammonium iodide ( $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$ ) (10–50 mol %), *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide ( $t\text{-BuOOH}$ ) (1.5 or 3.0 equiv, 70% aqueous solution)

Scheme 3. Scope of Carboxylic Acids<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>1a (0.7 mmol), 2 (0.5 mmol),  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (10 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (1.5 equiv), DCE (1.0 mL) under air, at 60 °C for 6 h. <sup>b</sup> $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (20 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used. <sup>c</sup> $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (30 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used. <sup>d</sup> $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (50 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used. <sup>e</sup>Phenylglyoxylic acid was used.

and 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) were added to a test tube under air. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  solution, extracted repeatedly with ethyl acetate, and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Removal of the organic solvent followed by flash column chromatographic purification afforded products using petroleum and ethyl acetate.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (3a).** Colorless oil, 99% yield (146 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.48 (dd,  $J$  = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.2, 161.1, 156.8, 131.1, 129.6, 126.8, 125.2, 124.4, 120.9, 110.4, 76.0, 74.4, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 319.1305; found, 319.1310. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2963, 1712, 1609, 1478, 1267, 1095, 751.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Benzoate (3b).** White solid, 96% yield (115 mg), mp: 71–72 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01–7.99 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.47 (dd,  $J$  = 6.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.2, 161.1, 133.1, 131.2, 129.7, 129.6, 128.3, 126.8, 124.3, 121.0, 110.4, 76.0, 74.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 263.0679; found, 263.0687. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2972, 1705, 1594, 1478, 1263, 1113, 709.

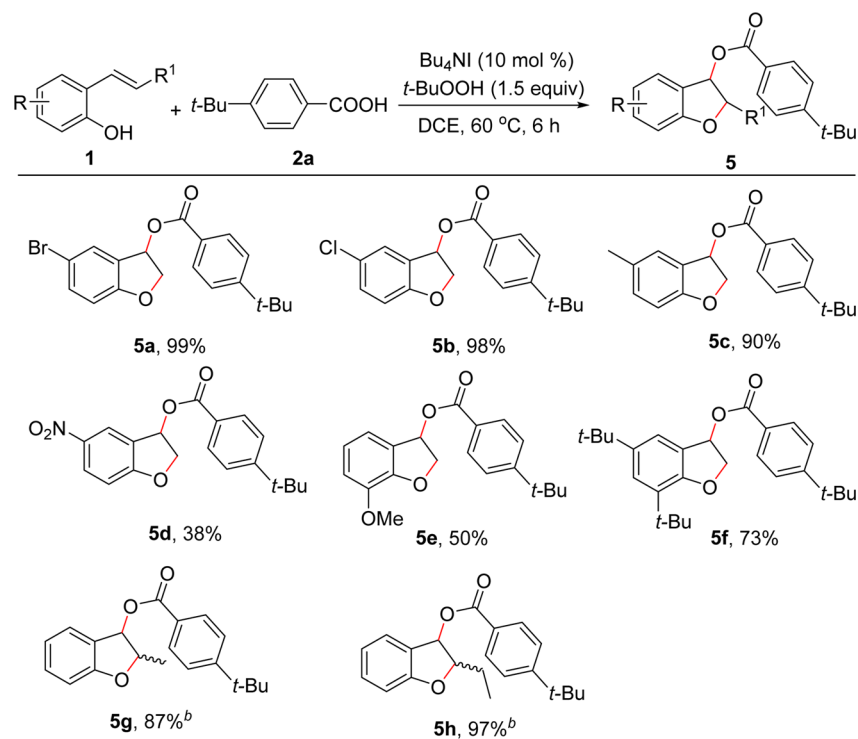
**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Fluorobenzoate (3c).** White solid, 60% yield (77 mg), mp: 55–57 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04–7.99 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.08–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.47 (dd,  $J$  = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8 (d,  $J$  = 253.0 Hz), 165.3, 161.1,

132.3 (d,  $J$  = 9.3 Hz), 131.3, 126.8, 125.9 (d,  $J$  = 2.9 Hz), 124.2, 121.0, 115.5 (d,  $J$  = 21.9 Hz), 110.5, 76.0, 74.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{FO}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 281.0584; found, 281.0590. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2962, 1703, 1600, 1479, 1271, 1103, 747.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Chlorobenzoate (3d).** White solid, 93% yield (127 mg), mp: 117–119 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.94–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.47 (dd,  $J$  = 6.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.3, 161.1, 139.6, 131.3, 131.0, 128.6, 128.0, 126.8, 124.1, 121.0, 110.5, 75.9, 74.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}^{35}\text{ClO}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 297.0289;  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}^{37}\text{ClO}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 299.0259; found, 297.0284, 299.0255. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2964, 1704, 1592, 1479, 1270, 1101, 746.

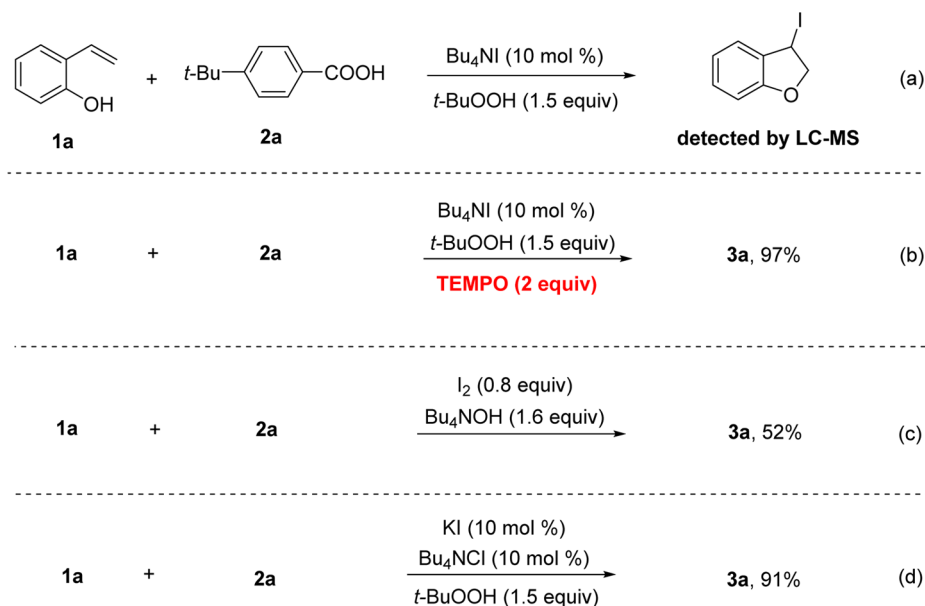
**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Bromobenzoate (3e).** White solid, 75% yield (119 mg), mp: 130–131 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.47 (dd,  $J$  = 6.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.5, 161.1, 131.6, 131.4, 131.2, 128.5, 128.3, 126.8, 124.0, 121.0, 110.5, 75.9, 75.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}^{79}\text{BrO}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 340.9784;  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}^{81}\text{BrO}_3 + \text{Na}^+$ , 342.9763; found, 340.9786, 342.9762. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2963, 1704, 1599, 1477, 1269, 1101, 747.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Methoxybenzoate (3f).** White solid, 99% yield (133 mg), mp: 111–113 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (dd,  $J$  = 6.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.5

Scheme 4. Scope of 2-Vinylphenols<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 1 (0.7 mmol), 2a (0.5 mmol),  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (10 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (1.5 equiv), DCE (1.0 mL) under air, at 60 °C for 6 h. <sup>b</sup>  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$  (20 mol %),  $t\text{-BuOOH}$  (3.0 equiv) was used.

Scheme 5. Probe for Possible Mechanism



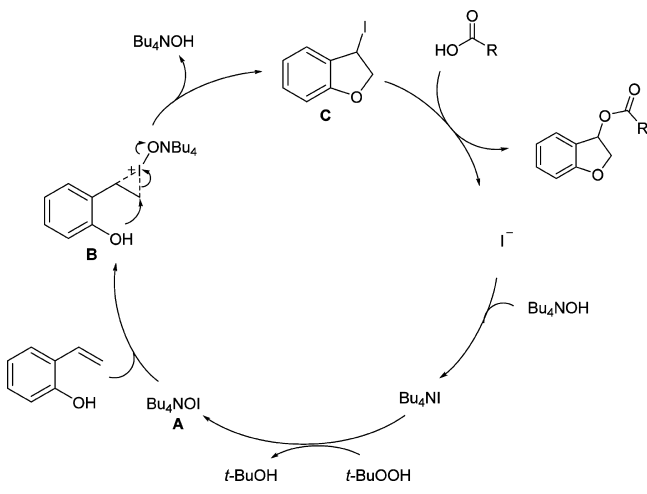
Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.9, 163.5, 161.0, 131.7, 131.1, 126.8, 124.4, 121.9, 120.9, 113.5, 110.3, 76.0, 74.3, 55.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4 + \text{Na}^+$ , 293.0784; found, 293.0798. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2961, 1696, 1602, 1480, 1271, 1096, 746.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(Methylsulfonyl)benzoate (3g).** White solid, 87% yield (138 mg), mp: 132–134 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.20–8.18 (m, 2H), 7.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 6.98–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.53 (dd,  $J$  = 6.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.5, 161.1,

144.3, 134.2, 131.5, 130.5, 127.3, 126.8, 123.7, 121.0, 110.5, 75.6, 75.5, 44.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5\text{S} + \text{Na}^+$ , 341.0454; found, 341.0448. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2923, 1724, 1597, 1477, 1151, 752.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Cyanobenzoate (3h).** White solid, 73% yield (97 mg), mp: 91–92 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13–8.11 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 1H), 6.99–6.93 (m, 2H), 6.52 (dd,  $J$  = 6.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.6, 161.2, 133.4, 132.1, 131.6, 130.2, 126.8, 123.7, 121.1, 117.8, 116.6, 110.6, 75.7, 75.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal.

Scheme 6. Proposed Reaction Mechanism



Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{11}NO_3 + Na^+$ , 288.0631; found, 288.0627. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2919, 2233, 1720, 1597, 1477, 1267, 1100, 760.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-Nitrobenzoate (7i).** White solid, 46% yield (65 mg), mp: 125–126 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27–8.25 (m, 2H), 8.20–8.18 (m, 2H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.00–6.94 (m, 2H), 6.54 (dd,  $J = 6.3, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd,  $J = 11.6, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd,  $J = 11.6, 2.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  164.4, 161.2, 150.6, 135.0, 131.7, 130.8, 126.9, 123.7, 123.5, 121.2, 110.6, 75.8, 75.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{11}NO_5 + Na^+$ , 308.0529; found, 308.0526. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2957, 1714, 1600, 1268, 1115, 769, 716.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2-methylbenzoate (3j).** Colorless oil, 98% yield (124 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.87–7.84 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.45 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 161.1, 140.4, 132.2, 131.6, 131.1, 130.7, 128.8, 126.7, 125.6, 124.4, 120.9, 110.4, 76.0, 74.4, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{14}O_3 + Na^+$ , 277.0835; found, 277.0842. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2967, 1712, 1600, 1478, 1241, 1069, 735.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2-Iodobenzoate (3k).** Yellow oil, 81% yield (148 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95–87.93 (m, 1H), 7.74–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.07 (m, 1H), 6.97–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.51–6.49 (m, 1H), 4.70–4.69 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  166.1, 161.1, 141.2, 134.2, 132.8, 131.4, 131.0, 127.8, 126.9, 123.9, 121.0, 110.4, 94.1, 75.7, 75.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{11}IO_3 + Na^+$ , 388.9645; found, 388.9635. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2941, 1721, 1598, 1478, 1239, 1013, 737.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2-Acetylbenzoate (3l).** Colorless oil, 80% yield (113 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.79–7.77 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.47–6.45 (m, 1H), 4.68–4.67 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  202.2, 166.8, 161.1, 142.2, 131.9, 131.3, 130.1, 129.6, 128.7, 126.8, 126.5, 123.7, 121.0, 110.4, 75.6, 75.4, 29.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{14}O_4 + Na^+$ , 305.0784; found, 305.0775. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2958, 1703, 1598, 1479, 1263, 1100, 753.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 3-Methylbenzoate (3m).** White solid, 94% yield (119 mg), mp: 95–96 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.25 (m, 3H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.48 (dd,  $J = 6.6, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  166.4, 161.1, 138.1, 133.9, 131.2, 130.2, 129.5, 128.2, 126.9, 126.8, 124.4, 121.0, 110.4, 76.0, 74.6, 21.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{14}O_3 + Na^+$ , 277.0835; found, 277.0840. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2956, 1715, 1595, 1475, 1270, 1190, 945, 743.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 3-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoate (3n).** White solid, 85% yield (131 mg), mp: 56–57 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.53–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 6.98–6.93 (m, 2H), 6.53 (dd,  $J = 6.3, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.75–4.66 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  165.0, 161.2, 132.9, 131.5, 131.2, 130.9, 130.6, 129.73, 129.69, 129.66, 129.62, 129.0, 127.6, 126.9, 126.65, 126.61, 126.57, 126.53, 124.9, 124.0, 122.2, 121.1, 119.5, 110.6, 75.8, 75.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{11}F_3O_3 + Na^+$ , 331.0552; found, 331.0550. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2971, 1717, 1594, 1476, 1327, 1237, 1128, 753.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2,6-Dimethylbenzoate (3o).** White solid, 88% yield (118 mg), mp: 54–56 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 6.98–6.89 (m, 4H), 6.53 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 6H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.6, 161.1, 135.0, 132.9, 131.3, 129.5, 127.6, 126.7, 124.2, 121.0, 110.5, 75.7, 74.8, 19.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}O_3 + Na^+$ , 291.0992; found, 291.0988. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2971, 1713, 1597, 1478, 1263, 1113, 1055, 750.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 3-Phenylpropanoate (4a).** Colorless oil, 98% yield (131 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.12 (m, 3H), 6.92–6.86 (m, 2H), 6.20 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.53 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.91 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  172.5, 161.0, 140.0, 131.1, 128.4, 128.2, 126.6, 126.2, 124.2, 120.9, 110.3, 75.8, 74.1, 35.6, 30.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}O_3 + Na^+$ , 291.0992; found, 291.0987. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2972, 1714, 1597, 1478, 1263, 1055, 750.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Cinnamate (4b).** White solid, 95% yield (126 mg), mp: 68–69 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.69 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.26 (m, 4H), 6.96–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.42–6.36 (m, 2H), 4.64 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 2.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 161.0, 145.5, 134.0, 131.2, 130.4, 128.8, 128.0, 126.7, 124.3, 120.9, 117.4, 110.4, 76.0, 74.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{14}O_3 + Na^+$ , 289.0835; found, 289.0832. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2959, 1699, 1629, 1476, 1163, 761.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Cyclohexanecarboxylate (4c).** Colorless oil, 94% yield (116 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.87 (m, 2H), 6.24 (dd,  $J = 6.8, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.32–2.24 (m, 1H), 1.90–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.77–1.70 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.58 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.37 (m, 2H), 1.30–1.17 (m, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 160.9, 131.0, 126.5, 124.5, 120.9, 110.3, 76.0, 73.7, 42.9, 28.8, 28.7, 25.6, 25.24, 25.21; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{18}O_3 + Na^+$ , 269.1148; found, 269.1147. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2931, 2855, 1726, 1599, 1163, 956, 751.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Cyclopropanecarboxylate (4d).** Colorless oil, 95% yield (97 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.24 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.59 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.49 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.62–1.56 (m, 1H), 1.03–0.99 (m, 2H), 0.88–0.83 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  174.6, 161.0, 131.1, 126.6, 124.4, 120.9, 110.4, 76.0, 74.1, 12.8, 8.70, 8.69; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{12}O_3 + Na^+$ , 227.0679; found, 227.0686. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  3016, 1720, 1599, 1479, 1394, 1162, 750.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Pivalate (4e).** Colorless oil, 97% yield (107 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.41–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.87 (m, 2H), 6.24 (dd,  $J = 6.9, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.18 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  178.4, 161.0, 131.1, 126.6, 124.6, 121.0, 110.4, 76.1, 74.0, 38.6, 27.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for  $C_{13}H_{16}O_3 + Na^+$ , 243.0992; found, 243.0990. IR (neat,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu$  2972, 1723, 1600, 1467, 1278, 1141, 960, 751.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl (tert-Butoxycarbonyl)glycinate (4f).** Colorless oil, 74% yield (109 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.30 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 4.59 (dd,  $J = 11.5, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd,  $J = 11.5, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.94–3.81 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.2, 161.0, 155.6, 131.4, 126.7, 123.7, 121.0, 110.4, 79.9, 75.6, 75.0, 42.4, 28.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 316.1155; found, 316.1158. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  3328, 2985, 2934, 1747, 1682, 1540, 1166, 955, 756.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2-(4-Chlorophenoxy)acetate (4g).** White solid, 41% yield (62 mg), mp: 79–80 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.45–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.81–6.77 (m, 2H), 6.37 (dd,  $J$  = 6.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.65–4.52 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.4, 161.1, 156.2, 131.7, 129.5, 126.8, 123.7, 121.2, 116.0, 110.6, 75.5, 75.4, 65.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>35</sup>ClO<sub>4</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 327.0395; C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>37</sup>ClO<sub>4</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 329.0365; found, 327.0399, 329.0373. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2916, 1750, 1600, 1480, 1172, 1079, 959, 826, 748.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 2-(1,3-Dioxoisindolin-2-yl)acetate (4h).** White solid, 51% yield (82 mg), mp: 108–109 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.88–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.76–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.33 (dd,  $J$  = 6.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.62–4.53 (m, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.3, 167.1, 161.0, 134.2, 131.8, 131.5, 126.8, 123.4, 123.4, 121.1, 110.4, 75.7, 75.5, 38.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 346.0686; found, 346.0679. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2922, 1714, 1482, 1417, 1176, 949, 712.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 1-Methyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxylate (4i).** White solid, 98% yield (144 mg), mp: 134–135 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.64–6.61 (m, 1H), 4.80–4.73 (m, 2H), 4.09 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.1, 161.0, 140.7, 133.8, 131.1, 126.9, 126.6, 124.1, 123.2, 123.0, 121.8, 120.8, 110.3, 109.3, 75.7, 74.5, 36.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 317.0897; found, 317.0891. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2974, 1704, 1598, 1474, 1208, 1111, 750.

**2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl Thiophene-2-carboxylate (4j).** White solid, 83% yield (102 mg), mp: 64–65 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.78–7.76 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.45 (dd,  $J$  = 6.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.71–4.62 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.9, 161.1, 133.8, 133.2, 132.9, 131.3, 127.7, 126.9, 124.1, 121.0, 110.4, 75.8, 74.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S + Na<sup>+</sup>, 269.0243; found, 269.0232. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  3106, 2977, 1698, 1595, 1464, 1414, 1254, 1092, 736.

**5-Bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5a).** White solid, 99% yield (185 mg), mp: 66–68 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.35 (m, 1H), 6.78 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.0, 160.2, 157.1, 133.9, 129.7, 129.6, 126.8, 126.5, 125.3, 112.6, 112.0, 76.5, 73.8, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub><sup>79</sup>BrO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 397.0410; C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub><sup>81</sup>BrO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 399.0389; found, 397.0405, 399.0378. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2925, 1705, 1606, 1471, 1238, 1114, 809, 671.

**5-Chloro-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5b).** Colorless oil, 98% yield (161 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.96–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 1H), 6.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 159.7, 157.1, 131.1, 129.6, 126.8, 126.5, 126.2, 125.6, 125.3, 111.4, 76.5, 73.9, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub><sup>35</sup>ClO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 353.0915; C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub><sup>37</sup>ClO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 355.0885; found, 353.0902, 355.0882. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2963, 1706, 1608, 1476, 1267, 1092, 707.

**5-Methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5c).** Colorless oil, 90% yield (140 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.97–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.10–7.07 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd,  $J$  = 6.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd,  $J$  = 11.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd,  $J$  = 11.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 159.0, 156.8, 131.7, 130.3, 129.6, 127.0, 126.9, 125.2, 124.4, 109.9, 76.1, 74.6, 35.0, 31.0, 20.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>,

333.1461; found, 333.1458. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2963, 1708, 1608, 1493, 1266, 1113, 775, 707.

**5-Nitro-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5d).** White solid, 38% yield (64 mg), mp: 153–155 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28–8.26 (m, 1H), 7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.44 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd,  $J$  = 6.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.02, 165.96, 157.5, 142.2, 129.7, 128.1, 126.1, 125.9, 125.4, 123.6, 110.6, 78.0, 72.8, 35.1, 31.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 364.1155; found, 364.1153. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2967, 1700, 1601, 1517, 1334, 1257, 945, 674.

**7-Methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5e).** White solid, 50% yield (182 mg), mp: 109–110 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 1H), 6.93–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.52 (dd,  $J$  = 6.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 157.0, 149.9, 145.0, 129.6, 126.8, 125.6, 125.3, 121.7, 118.5, 113.4, 76.7, 74.9, 56.0, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 349.1410; found, 349.1408. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2969, 1703, 1595, 1496, 1264, 940, 773.

**5,7-Di-tert-butyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5f).** Colorless oil, 73% yield (149 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d,  $J$  = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd,  $J$  = 11.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd,  $J$  = 11.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.32 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.6, 157.2, 156.8, 143.7, 133.0, 129.7, 127.1, 125.3, 125.1, 124.1, 120.8, 75.8, 75.0, 35.1, 34.5, 34.4, 31.7, 31.1, 29.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 431.2557; found, 431.2545. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2957, 1716, 1610, 1483, 1267, 1098, 707.

**2-Methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5g).** Colorless oil, 87% yield (135 mg), dr = 6.7:1 (as an inseparable mixture). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.98–7.96 (m, 2H + 2H  $\times$  0.15), 7.48–7.40 (m, 3H + 3H  $\times$  0.15), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H + 1H  $\times$  0.15), 6.92–6.88 (m, 2 + 2H  $\times$  0.15), 6.43 (d,  $J$  = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d,  $J$  = 2.2 Hz, 1H  $\times$  0.15), 4.89–4.82 (m, 1H + 1H  $\times$  0.15), 1.56 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.50 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H  $\times$  0.15), 1.33 (s, 9H  $\times$  0.15), 1.31 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.4, 165.9, 160.6, 160.5, 157.1, 156.9, 131.2, 131.0, 129.63, 129.59, 127.2, 127.01, 126.96, 126.90, 125.7, 125.4, 125.31, 125.28, 120.9, 120.8, 110.5, 110.2, 84.3, 81.6, 80.3, 74.3, 41.6, 35.0, 31.0, 18.9, 13.9, 13.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 333.1461; found, 333.1460. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2964, 1714, 1609, 1466, 1266, 1095, 752.

**2-Ethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl 4-(tert-Butyl)benzoate (5h).** Colorless oil, 97% yield (157 mg), dr = 10:1 (as an inseparable mixture). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.97–7.94 (m, 2H + 2H  $\times$  0.1), 7.50–7.48 (m, 1H + 1H  $\times$  0.1), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H + 2H  $\times$  0.1), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H + 1H  $\times$  0.1), 6.91–6.87 (m, 2H + 2H  $\times$  0.1), 6.46 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H  $\times$  0.1), 4.60–4.55 (m, 1H + 1H  $\times$  0.1), 2.08–1.93 (m, 2H + 2H  $\times$  0.1), 1.33 (s, 9H  $\times$  0.1), 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.13 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H  $\times$  0.1); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.3, 165.8, 160.7, 160.5, 156.8, 131.13, 130.98, 129.6, 127.05, 127.03, 125.9, 125.4, 125.30, 125.26, 120.8, 120.6, 110.3, 110.2, 89.0, 86.8, 78.7, 73.6, 35.0, 31.0, 26.3, 21.8, 21.7, 10.5, 9.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup>, 347.1618; found, 347.1621. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2965, 1714, 1609, 1466, 1266, 1090, 752.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b01941.

Crystallographic data for compound 3f (CIF)

Copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and HRMS spectra for all products, and single-crystal X-ray data (PDF)

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## Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the Priority Academic Program Development of Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions (PAPD) and the Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21272165; 21302015; 21572148).

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