Supporting Information

DDQ-Catalyzed Reactions Employing MnO₂ as a Stoichiometric Oxidant

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General Experimental:

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 spectrometer at 300 MHz and 75 MHz respectively, a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer at 300 MHz and 100 MHz respectively, a Bruker Avance 500 spectrometer at 500 MHz and 125 MHz, a Bruker Avance 600 spectrometer at 600 MHz and 151 MHz if specified. The chemical shifts are given in parts per million (ppm) on the delta (δ) scale. The solvent peak was used as a reference value, for ¹H NMR: $CDCl_3 = 7.27$ ppm, for ¹³C NMR: $CDCl_3 = 77.23$. Data are reported as follows: s = singlet; d = doublet; t = triplet; q = quartet; p = pentet; dd = doublet of doublets; dt = doublet of triplets; br = broad. High resolution and low resolution mass spectra were recorded on a VG 7070 spectrometer. Infrared (IR) spectra were collected on a Mattson Cygnus 100 spectrometer. Samples for IR were prepared as a thin film on a NaCl plate by dissolving the compound in CH₂Cl₂ and then evaporating the CH₂Cl₂. Manganese dioxide was purchased from Strem and used after activation by heating to 125 °C for 48 h. Methylene chloride was distilled under N₂ from CaH₂. Nitromethane was dried over 4 Å molecular sieves. Analytical TLC was performed on E. Merck pre-coated (25 mm) silica gel 60F-254 plates. Visualization was done under UV (254 nm). Flash chromatography was done using ICN SiliTech 32-63 60 Å silica gel. Reagent grade ethyl acetate, diethyl ether, pentane and hexanes (commercial mixture) were purchased from EM Science and used as is for chromatography. All reactions were performed in oven or flame-dried glassware under a positive pressure of N₂ with magnetic stirring unless otherwise noted.

General procedure for the oxidation reactions:

The reaction substrate (1 eq), 2,6-dichloropyridine (2 eq), MnO_2 (6 eq) and 4 Å molecular sieves (2 mass eq) were suspended in anhydrous nitromethane to give a ~0.1 M solution (substrate concentration). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes, followed by the addition of DDQ (0.05 eq). The mixture was stirred at rt for 10 h and a second portion of DDQ (0.05 eq) was added. After an additional 14 h the last portion of DDQ (0.05 eq) was added. The reaction was monitored by TLC and, upon starting material consumption, was quenched by Et₃N. The mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography to give the desired product.

General procedure for the deprotection of *p*-methoxy benzyl ethers:

To the substrate (1 eq) and MnO₂ (6 eq) in anhydrous nitromethane (~0.2 M) was added MeOH

(8 eq) and DDQ (0.05 eq). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 10 h and a second portion of DDQ (0.05 eq) was added. After an additional 18 h the last portion of DDQ (0.05 eq) was added. The reaction was monitored by TLC and, upon starting material consumption, was quenched by Et_3N . The mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography to give the desired alcohol.



Reagents and conditions a) NaH, TBSCI, THF, 93%. b) SO₃•Py, DMSO, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 69%. c) Propargyl bromide, Zn, 1,2-diiodoethane, THF, 49%. d) NaH, DMF, then prenyl bromide, 81%. e) HOAc, [(*p*-cymene)RuCl₂]₂, Fur₃P, Na₂CO₃, PhMe, 55%.

Scheme 1. The preparation of substrate 1.



6-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)hex-1en-2-yl acetate (1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.36-5.32 (m, 1H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.04 (dd, J = 7.0, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.62 (m, 3H), 2.50 (dd, J =

6.4, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (dd, J = 5.8, 14.7 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.73-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.06 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H); ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 153.8, 136.9, 121.5, 103.8, 73.1, 66.2, 59.6, 38.8, 37.8, 26.1, 26.0, 21.3, 18.5, 18.2, -5.1, -5.2; IR (neat) 2927, 2859, 1759, 1651, 1254, 1200, 1094, 1020, 835, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₃₆O₄Si [M⁺] 356.2383, found 356.2376.



(2*R*,6*R*)-2-(2-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)-6-(2-methylprop-1-en-1-yl)dihydro-2*H*-pyran-4(3*H*)-one (2)

The general oxidation procedure was followed with 1 (42 mg, 0.12 mmol), 2,6-dichloropyridine (35 mg, 0.23 mmol), MnO_2 (61 mg, 0.70 mmol), 4 Å

molecular sieves (60 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.4 mg, 0.018 mmol) in 1.1 mL nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 48 h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 5% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (29 mg, 79%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.23-5.21 (m, 1H), 4.34-4.25 (m, 1H), 3.86-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.67 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.25 (m, 4H), 1.89-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.72-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.03 (s, 6H); ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.6, 137.4, 124.7, 74.3, 73.8, 59.0, 48.2, 48.1, 39.5, 26.1, 25.9, 18.6, 18.4, -5.2, -5.3; IR (neat) 2953, 2927, 2859, 1724, 1469, 1385, 1361, 1325, 1253, 1146, 1098, 1025, 940, 901, 835, 777 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₃₂O₃Si [M⁺] 312.2121, found 312.2124.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)dihydro-2H-pyran-4(3H)-one (4)

The general oxidation procedure was followed with 3^1 (35 mg, 0.14 mmol), 2,6dichloropyridine (41 mg, 0.28 mmol), MnO₂ (75 mg, 0.84 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (40 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.6 mg, 0.021 mmol) in 1.4 mL MeO anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at rt for 41 h then was quenched by Et_3N . The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (22 mg, 76%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (dd, J = 3.5, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (ddd, J = 1.5, 7.5, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (td, J = 2.5, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.75-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.65-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.42 (dm, J =14.5 Hz, 1H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.¹

2-*p*-Tolyldihydro-2*H*-pyran-4(3*H*)-one (6)



The general oxidation procedure was followed with 5^1 (49 mg, 0.21 mmol), 2,6dichloropyridine (46 mg, 0.31 mmol), MnO₂ (109 mg, 1.3 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (80 mg), and DDQ (3 x 2.4 mg, 0.032 mmol) in 2.0 mL anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 44 h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 7% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (33 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.61 (dd, J = 5.5, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (ddd, J = 1.5, 7.5, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (td, J = 3.0, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (ddd, J =7.5, 9.5, 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.43 (dm, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.¹

(2*R*,6*R*)-2-Hexyl-6-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)dihydro-2*H*-pyran-4(3*H*)-one (8)

The general oxidation procedure was followed with 7^2 (26 mg, 0.097 mmol), 2,6-dichloropyridine (22 mg, 0.15 mmol), MnO₂ (51 mg, 0.58 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (40 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.1 mg, 0.015 mmol) in 1.0 mL

anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 40 h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexanes to 5% EtOAc in hexanes) to give the desired product (20 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.74 (ddg, J = 0.9, 12.8, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 5.54 (ddg, J = 1.5, 6.1, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 4.06-3.99 (m, 1H), 3.58 (ddt, J = 2.7, 6.9, 14.3 Hz, 1H), 2.37-2.33 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.18 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.66 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.27 (m, 10H), 0.87 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.²

(2R,6R)-2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-tetrahydropyran-4-one (10)



The general oxidation procedure was followed with 9^3 (46 mg, 0.17 mmol), 2,6-dichloropyridine (49 mg, 0.33 mmol), MnO₂ (86 mg, 0.99 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (80 mg), and DDO (4 x 1.9 mg, 0.034 mmol) in 1.6 mL anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 48

h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash

chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 7% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (29 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.27-4.17 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.72-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.46-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 11.0, 14.1 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.42 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.³

(E)-3-(2-(1-Methyl-3-oxocyclohexyl)vinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (12)



The general oxidation procedure was followed with 11^4 (27 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2.6dichloropyridine (22 mg, 0.15 mmol), MnO₂ (53 mg, 0.6 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (50 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.2 mg, 0.015 mmol) in 1.0 mL anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 36 h then was

quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (40% hexane in EtOAc) to give the desired product (15 mg, 68%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.65 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 4.46-4.41 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.64 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.22 (m, 4H), 1.95-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.83-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.13 (s, 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.⁴



(*E*)-3-(2-(2-Methyltetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)vinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (14) The general oxidation procedure was followed with 13^4 (21 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2,6-dichloropyridine (22 mg, 0.15 mmol), MnO₂ (53 mg, 0.6 mmol), 4 Å molecular

sieves (30 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.2 mg, 0.015 mmol) in 1.0 mL anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h then was guenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (40% hexane in EtOAc) to give the desired product (18 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.80 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 4.49-4.44 (m, 2H), 3.75-3.62 (m, 4H), 1.80-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.47 (m, 5H), 1.30 (s. 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.⁴

(2R,6R)-2-Hexyl-6-(2-methylprop-1-enyl)-2-(prop-1-ynyl)dihydro-2H**pyran-4(3***H***)-one (16)** The general oxidation procedure was followed with 15³ (35 mg, 0.11 mmol),

2,6-dichloropyridine (24 mg, 0.16 mmol), MnO₂ (57 mg, 0.66 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (70 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.4 mg, 0.017 mmol) in 1.1 mL

anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 40 h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 5% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (21 mg, 70%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.24 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (ddd, *J* = 3.1, 7.9, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (dd, J = 1.6, 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.35-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.28 (dd, J = 11.0, 14.2)Hz, 1H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.71 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58-1.29 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.6Hz, 3H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.³



2-(2-Methylprop-1-enyl)-1-oxaspiro[5.5]undecan-4-one (18)

The general oxidation procedure was followed with 17^3 (38 mg, 0.14 mmol), 2,6-dichloropyridine (31 mg, 0.21 mmol), MnO₂ (74 mg, 0.85 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (60 mg), and DDQ (3 x 1.7 mg, 0.021 mmol) in 1.4 mL

anhydrous nitromethane. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 30 h then was quenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (30% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 15% Et₂O in hexane) to give the desired product (26 mg, 81%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dt, J = 4.4, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.33-2.29 (m, 4H), 1.82-1.72 (m, 5H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.29 (m, 8H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.³



2-Phenylethanol

The General procedure for the deprotection of *p*-methoxy benzyl ethers was followed: 3 (60 mg, 0.25 mmol), MnO₂ (129 mg, 1.48 mmol), MeOH (60 µL), nitromethane (1.3 mL) and DDQ (3 x 2.8 mg, 0.037 mmol). The reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 48 h and then guenched by Et₃N. The crude was purified by flash chromatography (10% to 15%) EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (27 mg, 90%).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dioxane



5 (45 mg, 0.23 mmol), MnO₂ (120 mg, 1.4 mmol), NaHCO₃ (39 mg, 0.46 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieves (80 mg) were dissolved in 1.5 mL anhydrous nitromethane, followed by DDQ (3 x 2.6 mg, 15% eq). The reaction was stirred

at room temperature for 40 h and then guenched by Et₃N. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (42 mg, 94%).



Naphthalene

7 (46 mg, 0.35 mmol) and MnO_2 (185 mg, 2.1 mmol) were dissolved in 2.5 mL anhydrous nitromethane, followed by DDQ (2 x 4.0 mg, 10% eq). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product (43 mg, 96%).



2-Phenyloxazole

9 (60 mg, 0.41 mmol) and MnO₂ (213 mg, 2.5 mmol) were dissolved in 4.0 mL anhydrous benzene, followed by DDQ (4 x 4.7 mg, 20% eq). The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 48 h. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash

chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (51 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) & 8.08-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.25 (s, 1H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.⁵



2-(Isochroman-1-yl)-1-phenylethanone

Isochroman (27 mg, 0.2 mmol), acetophenone (72 mg, 0.6 mmol) and MnO_2 (105 mg, 1.2 mmol) were dissolved in 0.25 mL anhydrous nitromethane, followed by DDQ (4 x 2.3 mg, 20% eq). The reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 48 h. The crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (40% CH₂Cl₂ in hexane to 10% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (21 mg, 42%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 8.05-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.59 (tt, J = 1.4, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.10 (m, 4H), 5.52 (dd, J = 3.4, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (ddd, J = 3.7, 5.4, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (ddd, J = 3.8, 9.5, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, J = 8.7, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J = 3.6, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (ddd, J = 6.0, 10.0, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (td, J = 3.2, 15.8 Hz, 1H). These data are consistent with reported literature values.⁶

Procedure for the large scale oxidation:

To MnO₂ (16.4 g, 189 mmol) in 30 mL anhydrous nitromethane was added **24** (4.1 g, 31.5 mmol) in 10 mL anhydrous nitromethane dropwise under N₂, followed by the addition of DDQ (2 x 357 mg, 3.15 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. After filtration through a Celite pad with Et₂O, the crude mixture was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product (3.8 g, 94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00-7.97 (m, 4H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 4H); ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.7, 128.1, 126.0.

References:

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p-methyl benzylic ether cyclization 400a 13C



disubstituted allylic ether 1H



S15







vinyl oxazolidinone





Η



C13





S22





























C13