Supplementary Information

One-step direct oxidation of fullerene-fused alkoxy ethers to ketones for evaporable fullerene derivatives

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1. Isotope-labelling experiments



Supplementary Figure 1. ¹⁸O isotope-labelling experiments. a) HRMS of non-¹⁸O labeled 2a. b) HRMS of ¹⁸O labeled 2a-(¹⁸O).

Supplementary Table 1 HRMS data of non-¹⁸O labeled 2a.

Molecular formula	Theoretical	Found	Absolute intensity	Normalized intensity
wolecular formula	m/z	m/z	(a.u.)	(%) ^a
C ₆₇ H ₄ O	824.0262	824.0260	3798 ^b	100
	825.0296	825.0343	2705	71
	826.0329	826.0312	1006	26

^aCalculated from the intensity of each peak divided by the intensity of the base peak. ^bSelected as the base peak.

Supplementary Table 2 HRMS data of ¹⁸O labeled 2a-(¹⁸O).

Malagular formula	Theoretical	Found	Absolute intensity	Normalized intensity
wolecular formula	m/z	m/z	(a.u.)	(%) ^a
$C_{67}H_4O$	824.0262	824.0247	619	9
	825.0329	825.0318	426	6
$C_{67}H_4{}^{18}O$	826.0303	826.0342	7051 ^b	100
	827.0337	827.0346	5201	74
	828.0370	828.0368	1526	22

^aCalculated from the intensity of each peak divided by the intensity of the base peak. ^bSelected as the base peak.

2. Kinetic studies



Supplementary Figure 2. HPLC profile of the oxidation of 1a at 353 K.

Timo		1a			2a	
(min)	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio
(11111)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)
5	60503	1.19	99.7	192	0.01	0.3
10	60091	1.18	98.8	737	0.00	1.2
15	48563	1.16	97.1	1444	0.01	2.9
20	33130	1.14	95.5	1548	0.03	4.5
30	46772	1.09	91.7	4217	0.05	8.3
40	45870	1.05	88.4	6006	0.10	11.6
50	38421	1.01	85.1	6732	0.14	14.9
60	37013	0.96	80.8	8773	0.18	19.2
75	31602	0.90	75.9	10014	0.23	24.1
90	24675	0.84	70.7	10224	0.29	29.3
105	25308	0.82	69.3	11234	0.35	30.7
120	27245	0.78	65.1	14578	0.37	34.9
150	32822	0.73	61.3	20744	0.41	38.7
180	29339	0.65	54.2	24780	0.46	45.8
210	33866	0.57	48.0	36742	0.54	52.0
240	29815	0.50	42.4	40444	0.62	57.6
270	25656	0.45	37.5	42672	0.69	62.5
300	22041	0.40	33.2	44321	0.74	66.8

Supplementary Table 3 HPLC report of the oxidation of 1a at 353 K.



Supplementary Figure 3. HPLC profile of the oxidation of 1a at 360 K.

Timo		1a			2a	
(min)	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio
(11111)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)
2	49142	1.18	99.3	338	0.01	0.7
5	42627	1.18	95.3	2088	0.06	4.7
10	51247	1.15	97.0	1598	0.04	3.0
15	44626	1.09	91.7	3789	0.09	7.8
20	45852	1.06	88.7	5665	0.13	11.0
30	45742	0.97	81.1	10289	0.22	18.2
40	39463	0.89	75.0	12895	0.29	24.5
50	36041	0.81	68.1	16463	0.37	31.1
60	33861	0.74	62.3	20023	0.44	36.9
75	24030	0.64	53.7	20467	0.55	45.8
90	23166	0.55	46.2	26666	0.63	53.2
105	20190	0.48	40.0	30097	0.71	59.6
120	18315	0.41	34.6	34417	0.77	64.9
150	14173	0.33	27.8	36592	0.85	71.8
180	12636	0.27	22.5	43104	0.91	76.7
210	9066	0.23	18.9	38605	0.96	80.7
240	8790	0.23	18.8	37965	0.95	79.9
270	8401	0.20	17.2	40442	0.97	81.2
300	8012	0.20	17.0	39117	0.99	82.8

Supplementary Table 4 HPLC report of the oxidation of 1a at 360 K.



Supplementary Figure 4. HPLC profile of the oxidation of 1a at 368 K.

Timo		1a			2a	
(min)	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio
(11111)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)
2	37335	1.17	98.4	589	0.02	1.6
5	57844	1.16	97.5	1449	0.03	2.4
10	37845	1.11	93.3	2738	0.08	6.7
15	44423	1.01	85.2	7697	0.18	14.8
20	33897	0.89	75.0	11282	0.30	25.0
30	30723	0.72	60.7	19866	0.47	39.3
40	22065	0.58	49.1	22872	0.61	50.9
50	19491	0.48	40.3	28883	0.71	59.7
60	14846	0.41	34.3	28408	0.78	65.7
75	12448	0.32	26.6	34265	0.87	73.3
90	8151	0.23	19.1	34471	0.96	80.9
105	5951	0.18	14.8	34214	1.01	85.2
120	5558	0.14	11.7	42010	1.05	88.3
150	3986	0.11	8.8	41181	1.08	91.2
180	3457	0.09	7.3	43798	1.10	92.7
210	2405	0.08	6.4	35316	1.11	93.6
240	2442	0.07	5.9	39160	1.12	94.1
270	2321	0.06	5.4	40660	1.13	94.6
300	2364	0.06	5.0	44916	1.13	95.0

Supplementary Table 5 HPLC report of the oxidation of 1a at 368 K.



Retention time / min Supplementary Figure 5. HPLC profile of the oxidation of 1a at 375 K.

Timo		1a			2a	
(min)	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio
(11111)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)	(a.u.)	(×10 ³ mM)	(%)
0	38594	1.19	100	0	0.00	0.0
2	49074	1.10	92.1	3655	0.08	6.9
4	38471	1.01	84.8	6442	0.17	14.2
6	31451	0.89	74.4	10458	0.29	24.7
11	26750	0.70	58.7	18045	0.47	39.6
16	18157	0.52	44.1	22376	0.65	54.3
26	12423	0.32	26.7	33033	0.84	70.9
36	5829	0.17	14.6	34144	0.99	83.5
46	5055	0.13	11.0	40283	1.04	87.3
56	2711	0.08	6.6%	37688	1.09	91.8
71	1382	0.04	3.6%	36153	1.13	95.0
86	1403	0.04	3.6%	37027	1.13	94.6
120	1398	0.04	3.5%	37102	1.13	94.7

3. Mechanistic studies



Supplementary Figure 6. The comparison of ¹H NMR of 1a and 2a with CDCI₃ as internal reference (δ = 7.260 ppm).



Supplementary Figure 7. Plausible mechanism for H₂O involved cycle.

Supplementary Note 1. DFT calculations

We performed density functional theory (DFT)¹ calculations in Gaussian 09² for key species using the B3LYP functional³ and Lanl2dz basis set. The calculations were performed in vacuum to gain mechanistic insight. Transition states were found with the Synchronous Transit-Guided Quasi-Newton (STQN) method⁴ implemented in Gaussian.

The key reaction step is proton transfer between the water oxygen and the methoxy group. In the presence of Br⁻ (Supplementary Table 7), upon formation of cation intermediate **III** (Supplementary Figure 8), there is Br⁻-assisted formation of the complex with water, which plays the role of the initial state to proton transfer to the methoxy with a barrier of 1.29/1.15 eV (internal/free energy) to form HBr and MeOH with barrierless separation of MeOH.

However, in the absence of Br⁻ (Supplementary Figure 9 and Table 8), complexation of the fullerene with water is not favored. In this case, a complex with HO⁻ (present due to partial dissociation of water) may be formed which can play the role of the initial state for proton transfer to the methoxy, with a higher barrier of 1.46/1.26 eV (internal/free energy). This pathway is thus less preferred kinetically, thermodynamically, and sterically (low concentration of HO⁻).

Therefore, ketone synthesis with formation of MeOH and HBr is effectively accelerated by Br⁻. The computed mechanism also confirms that the ketone oxygen directly comes from water rather than the methoxy group.

Reaction state	Molecular model	Internal energy (eV)	Free energy (eV) ^a
Initial state		0 ^b	0
Transistion state		1.29	1.15
Product state		- 0.16	- 0.34

Supplementary Table 7 DFT computed results for intra-molecular proton transfer in the presence of Br^{_}.

Atom color scheme here and elsewhere: C–dark grey, H–light grey, O–red, Br–magenta; ^aFree energies were computed at 300 K. ^bThe energy of initial state was defined as 0 for reference.

Reaction state	Molecular model	Internal energy (eV)	Free energy (eV) ^a
Initial state		0 ^b	0
Transistion state		1.46	1.26
Product state		- 0.09	- 0.29

Supplementary Table 8. DFT computed results for intra-molecular proton transfer in the absence of Br⁻.

Atom color scheme here and elsewhere: C–dark grey, H–light grey, O–red, Br–magenta; ^aFree energies were computed at 300 K. ^bThe energy of initial state was defined as 0 for reference.



Supplementary Figure 8. DFT computed energy change from III to 2a in the absence of Br⁻.



Supplementary Figure 9. DFT computed energy change from I to II in the presence of Br⁻.

The calculations also show oxidation of **1a** in the presence of Cu[II], as can be seen from the Mulliken charges on Cu and on **1a** when Cu(II) coordinates to **1a** are about + 0.7 for Cu and + 1.3 for the fullerene. The proton transfer barrier from I (Supplementary Figure 8) to Br⁻ to form HBr is computed to be only 0.40/0.32 eV (internal/free energy), confirming that the rate-determine step is proton transfer occurred in step from **III** to **2a**, rather than the step from **I** to **II** (Supplementary Fig. 9).

4. Evaporable fullerene-fused ketone

HPLC analyses



Supplementary Figure 10. HPLC analyses. a) Before deposition of 1a, b) Before deposition of 2a, c) After deposition of 1a, d) After deposition of 2a.





Supplementary Figure 11. TGA measurements. Under a N₂ gas flow with temperature ramp rate of 10 °C/min until 800 °C: **a)** indano[60]fullerene **1a**, **b)** [60]fullerene-fused ketone **2a**, **c)** PC₆₁BM, **d)** C₆₀.

TEM and SAED observations

TEM sample preparation. Spin-coated **2a**-film was prepared by spin-coating saturated **2a** *ortho*-dichlorobenzene with a 0.22 µm filter to remove any undissolved particles. After spin-coating onto the TEM grid, the grid was annealed at 100 °C to remove excess solvent. Vacuum-deposited **2a**-film was prepared directly from depositing **2a** by a thermal evaporator.





Supplementary Figure 12. TEM observations. a) spin-coated 2a-film and b) vacuumdeposited 2a-film with the selected area electron diffraction (SAED) as an inset.

UV-Vis observations



Supplementary Figure 13. UV-Vis spectra. a) C_{60} -film (black) and **2a**-film (red) through vacuum-deposition by 30 nm on bare glass substrate. **b)** DFT computational UV-vis of C_{60} (black) and **2a** (red).

Energy levels of evaporable fullerene-fused ketones 2a-d

Fullerenes	$E_{1/2}^{red}$ (V v	l LIMO level (eV) ^b	
	E ₁	E ₂	
C ₆₀	-1.11	-1.50	-3.69
2a	-1.13	-1.51	-3.67
2b	-1.14	-1.51	-3.66
2c	-1.12	-1.50	-3.68
2d	-1.15	-1.52	-3.65

Supplementary Table 9 Half-wave reduction potentials and LUMO levels of fullerenes.^a

^aPotentials in eV vs a ferrocene/ferrocenium (Fc/Fc⁺) couple were recorded by cyclic voltammetry in *o*-DCB solution containing Bu₄N⁺(CF₃SO₂)₂N⁻ (0.1 M) as supporting electrolyte at 25 °C with a scan rate of 0.05 V/s. Platinum disk, platinum wire, and Ag/Ag⁺ electrodes were used as the working, counter, and reference electrodes, respectively. ^bEstimated LUMO levels using the following equation: LUMO level = $-(4.8 + E_1) \text{ eV.}^6$

Supplementary Table 10 Comparison of half-wave reduction potentials and LUMO levels for 1a–d and 2a–d.

1 ^a	<i>E</i> ₁ (V)	LUMO level (eV)	2	<i>E</i> ₁ (V)	LUMO level (eV)
1a	-1.20	-3.60	2a	-1.13	-3.67
1b	-1.21	-3.59	2b	-1.14	-3.66
1c	-1.19	-3.61	2c	-1.12	-3.68
1d	-1.23	-3.57	2d	-1.15	-3.65

^aHalf-wave potentials and LUMO levels of **1a-d** are cited from our previous research.⁷

Fullerenes	HOMO orbitals	HOMO levels (eV)	LUMO orbitals	LUMO levels (eV)
C ₆₀		-6.723		-3.893
PC ₆₁ BM		-6.319		-3.700
2a		-6.392		-3.805
2b		-6.356		-3.773
2c		-6.483		-3.885
2d		-6.316		-3.733

5. Supplementary Methods

General methods

Unless otherwise noted, all materials including dry solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers (Sigma-Aldric, TCI, Wako) and used without further purification. Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed with dry solvents under an atmosphere of argon in flamedried glassware with standard vacuum-line techniques or in a glove box. The reaction monitoring was conducted by an analytical high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), using a COSMOSIL Buckyprep-D column as solid state, toluene or toluene/isopropanol as eluent with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min under the detection wavelength at 337 nm.

All NMR spectra were taken at room temperature by 400 MHz (Bruker AVANCE III 400 spectrometer), 500 MHz (Bruker AVANCE III 500 spectrometer) or 600 MHz (Bruker AVANCE III 600 spectrometer). Unless otherwise specified, all the NMR spectra were recorded in parts per million (ppm, scale) with the proton of CDCl₃ (7.260 ppm) or for ¹H NMR and carbon of CDCl₃ (77.16 ppm) for ¹³C NMR as internal reference, respectively. The data were presented as following order: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, hept = heptet, m = multiplet and/or multiplet resonances), coupling constant in hertz (Hz), and signal area integration in natural numbers, assignment (*italic*). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained by MALDI using a time-of-flight mass analyzer on a Bruker Ultra exTOF/TOF spectrometer.

Spectra data of products 2a-d



Spectra data of 2a. Column chromatography with CS₂ as eluent afforded product **2a** (23.2 mg, 94%) as black crystal powder. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃) δ 8.534 (dd, J_1 = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 8.456 (dd, J_1 = 7.6 Hz, J_2 = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 8.102 (dt, J_1 = 7.6 Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.892 (dt, J_1 = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃, all 2C unless indicated) δ 181.31 (C=O, 1C), 140.47 (*aryl C*, 1C), 138.47, 138.16, 133.57, 133.37 (1C), 133.15 (1C), 132.53, 132.52, 132.34, 132.29, 132.09, 131.94, 131.88, 131.83, 131.75, 131.73, 131.14, 130.85 (1C), 129.94, 129.65, 129.60, 129.37, 129.15, 129.11, 129.10 (*aryl C*, 1C), 128.95, 128.79, 127.95, 127.88, 125.04 (*aryl C*, 1C), 123.86 (1C), 123.78 (1C), 122.86 (1C), 119.60

(*aryl* C, 1C), 117.35(*aryl* C, 1C), 116.85 (*aryl* C, 1C), 79.47 (*sp*³-C of C₆₀, 1C), 77.33 (*sp*³-C of C₆₀, 1C); MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* calcd for C₆₇H₄O [M]⁺ 824.0262 , found 824.0260.



Spectra data of 2b. Column chromatography with CS₂/DCM (4/1) as eluent afforded product **2b** (23.4 mg, 93%) as black crystal powder. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃) δ 8.331 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.323 (s, 1H), 7.684 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.758 (s, 3H); MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* calcd for C₆₈H₆O [M]⁺ 838.0419, found 838.0413, which is in accordance with the reported literature.⁸



Spectra data of 2c. Column chromatography with CS₂/DCM (2/1) as eluent afforded product **2c** (23.2 mg, 92%) as black crystal powder. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃) δ 8.484 (dd, J_1 = 8.5 Hz, J_2 = 5.5 Hz ,1H), 8.180 (dd, J_1 = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 2.0 Hz ,1H), 7.582 (dt, J_1 = 8.5 Hz, J_2 = 2.0 Hz ,1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃, all 2C unless indicated) δ 199.41 (C=O, 1C), 168.54 (*aryl C*, J = 260.6 Hz, 1C), 159.27 (1C), 153.21, 152.59, 147.48, 147.41, 147.13, 146.37, 146.34, 146.11, 146.05, 145.62 (3C), 145.54, 145.52, 145.48, 145.39, 145.34, 144.58, 144.20, 143.10 (3C), 142.75, 142.69, 142.38, 142.25 (1C), 142.07, 142.04, 141.98, 141.87, 141.64, 140.63 (*aryl C*, J = 6.0 Hz, 1C), 135.48 (*aryl C*, J = 43.6 Hz, 1C), 134.42 (1C), 130.33 (1C), 129.63 (*aryl C*, J = 10.4 Hz, 1C), 118.78 (*aryl C*, J = 23.7 Hz, 1C), 113.70 (*aryl C*, J = 23.1 Hz, 1C), 73.87 (sp³-C of C₆₀, 1C); MALDI-TOF MS *m/z* calcd for C₆₇H₃OF [M]⁺ 842.0168, found 842.0165.



Spectra data of 2d. Column chromatography with CS₂/DCM (2/1) as eluent afforded product **2d** (24.1 mg, 94%) as black crystal powder. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CS₂/CDCl₃) δ 8.382 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz,1H), 7.825 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz,1H), 7.650 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.5 Hz,1H), 4.124 (s, 3H); MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* calcd for C₆₈H₆O₂ [M]⁺ 854.0368, found 854.0372, which is in accordance with the reported literature.⁸





Supplementary Figure 17. Expanded ¹³C NMR of 2a at a range of 130–110 ppm.



Supplementary Figure 18. ¹H NMR of 2b.







141 140 139 138 137 136 135 134 133 132 131 130 129 128 127 126 125 124 123 122 121 120 119 118 117 116 115 114 113 112 111 Supplementary Figure 22. Expanded ¹³C NMR of 2c at a range of 145–110 ppm.



Supplementary Figure 23. ¹H NMR of 2d.







7. HRMS spectra



Supplementary Figure 27. Full HRMS of the reaction of 1a in the absence of $H_2^{18}O$.



Supplementary Figure 28. Full HRMS of the reaction of 1a in the presence of 20.0 equiv. $H_2^{18}O$.

8. Supplementary references

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