Supplementary Information

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

Hao-Sheng Lin,^{1,5,6} Yue Ma,^{2,6} Rong Xiang,¹ Sergei Manzhos,³ II Jeon,^{1,4} Shigeo Maruyama¹ and Yutaka $Matsuo^{1,2,5*}$

1 Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyoku, Tokyo 113-8656, Japan.

² Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, School of Chemistry and Materials of Science, University of Science and Technology of China, 96 Jinzhai Road, Hefei, Anhui 230026, China

³ Centre Énergie Matériaux Télécommunications, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1650 boulevard Lionel-Boulet, Varennes QC J3X1S2 Canada.

⁴ Department of Chemistry Education, Graduate School of Chemical Materials, Pusan National University, 63-2 Busandaehak-ro, Busan 46241, Republic of Korea.

⁵ Department of Chemical System Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8603, Japan.

 6 These authors contributed equally

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Yut. M. (matsuo@photon.t.utokyo.ac.jp)

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.

^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).

^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.

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.

Time (min)	1a			2a			
	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	
	(a.u.)	$(x10^3 \text{ mM})$	$(\%)$	(a.u.)	$(x10^3 \text{ mM})$	$(\%)$	
$\overline{2}$	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.

Time (min)	1a			2a			
	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	Intensity	Conc.	Ratio	
	(a.u.)	$(x10^3 \text{ mM})$	$(\%)$	(a.u.)	$(x10^3 \text{ mM})$	$(\%)$	
$\overline{2}$	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.**

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 09 2 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.

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.

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 ratedetermine 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 spincoating onto the TEM grid, the grid was annealed at 100 $\,^{\circ}$ C to remove excess solvent. Vacuumdeposited **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) C₆₀-film (black) and 2a-film (red) through vacuum-deposition by 30 nm on bare glass substrate. **b**) DFT computational UV-vis of C₆₀ (black) and **2a** (red).

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

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

 a Potentials 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. **Estimated LUMO levels** using the following equation: LUMO level = $- (4.8 + E₁) eV⁶$

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

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

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 (*sp3*-*C* of C60, 1C), 77.33 (*sp3*-*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 $C_{68}H_6O$ [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), 71.58 (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 $C_{68}H_6O_2$ [M]⁺ 854.0368, found 854.0372, which is in accordance with the reported literature.8

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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.

7. HRMS spectra

Supplementary Figure 27. Full HRMS of the reaction of 1a in the absence of H2 18O.

Supplementary Figure 28. Full HRMS of the reaction of 1a in the presence of 20.0 equiv. H2 18O.

8. Supplementary references

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