

Organic Peroxides in Transition-Metal-Free Cyclization and Coupling Reactions (C–C) via Oxidative Transformation

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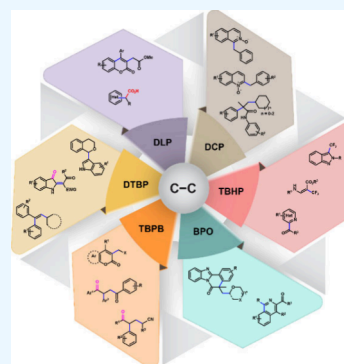


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ABSTRACT: Transition-metal-free transformations are recognized as green and sustainable methods for constructing carbon–carbon bonds in organic synthesis. This review describes the application of six organic peroxides, including *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (DTBP), *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate (TBPB), benzoyl peroxide (BPO), dialauroyl peroxide (DLP), and diguyl peroxide (DCP), in C–C bond construction, highlighting selected examples and mechanisms of challenging transformations. Each section concludes with a detailed overview of suitable reagents for various coupling reactions and strengths and weaknesses of the reported works. This work aims to inspire further innovations in transition-metal-free oxidative transformations, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly chemical processes and paving the way for new peroxide-based organic synthesis methods.



1. INTRODUCTION

Since Wöhler's first synthesis of an organic compound, synthesis paradigms have evolved significantly. The development of straightforward and practical methods for creating heterocycles has garnered considerable interest due to their extensive applications in various fields.¹ Heterocyclic compounds are crucial and impactful in synthesizing biological and pharmaceutical compounds.² The formation of carbon–carbon (C–C) bonds from two different carbon–hydrogen (C–H) bonds, without using transition metals, has intrigued synthetic chemists during the last years, generating evolutionary progress in the synthesis of valuable organic compounds. The use of transition metal catalysts in oxidative reactions is limited by their high cost, sensitivity to oxygen and moisture, and potential toxicity.^{3–6} Researchers have thus explored metal-free radical reactions, where radical species are typically generated by an oxidant under mild reaction conditions. These reactions exhibit high activity and excellent tolerance toward various functional groups.^{7,8} In direct oxidative transformations, terminal oxidants play an incisive role in promoting the reaction.⁹ Over the years, a diverse array of organic and inorganic oxidants have been employed in oxidative processes, each contributing uniquely to the advancement of synthetic methodologies.¹⁰ Oxidants have been utilized in hundreds of published studies for the oxidation of various organic compounds.^{11–14} Among them, organic peroxides have emerged as a significant option, gaining widespread popularity due to their versatility and efficacy in both metal-catalyzed and metal-free oxidative transformations.¹⁵ Peroxides exhibit

versatile reactivity, enabling reactions to occur at elevated temperatures as well as serving as effective primary oxidants under room temperature when subjected to UV or visible light irradiation.¹⁶ Both heat and photoirradiation can readily break the O–O bonds in peroxides due to steric repulsion between the two oxygen atoms. The resulting reactive species have a short lifetime and readily oxidize other organic compounds in the reaction medium. These reactions typically proceed through radical pathways, which can be investigated using radical trappers like (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), which trap free radicals in the medium and inhibit the progression of the reaction.¹⁷ In the past decade, significant strides have been made in transition-metal-free oxidative transformations using peroxides as compatible oxidants.^{18,19} Despite their extensive application and notable progress achieved in this domain, a conspicuous gap remains in the literature, and there has not been a comprehensive published review paper covering the full scope of organic peroxide-assisted oxidative transformations, including the latest advancements in this area. To fill this gap, this review aims to provide a detailed and systematic exploration of the role of organic peroxides in facilitating a

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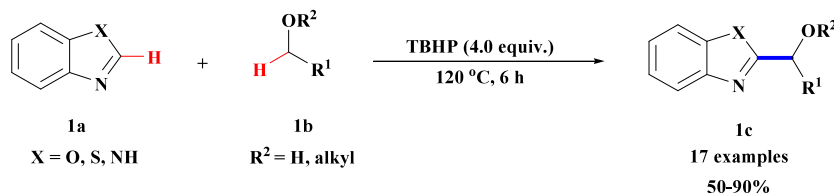
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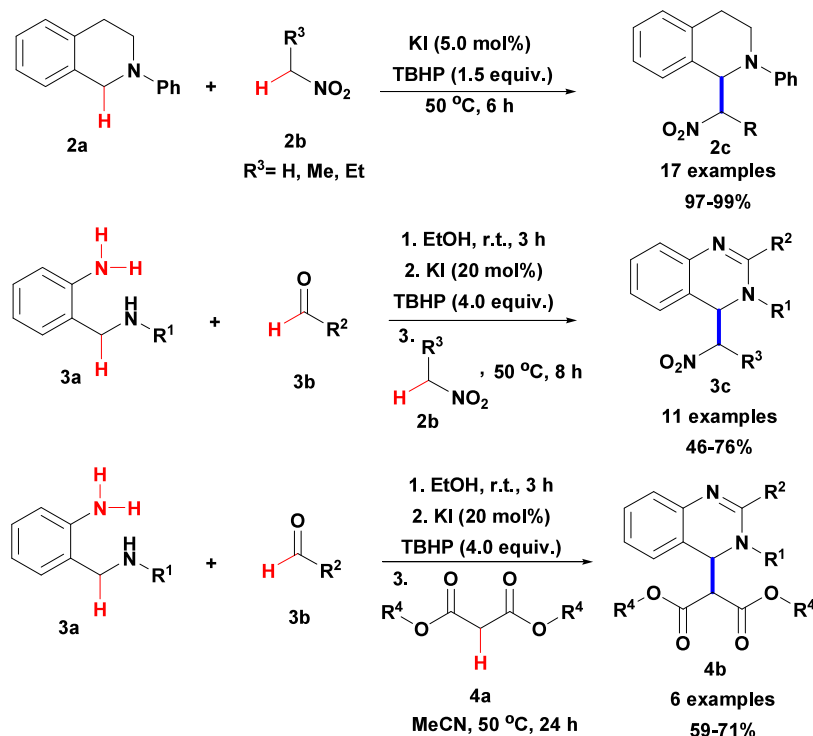
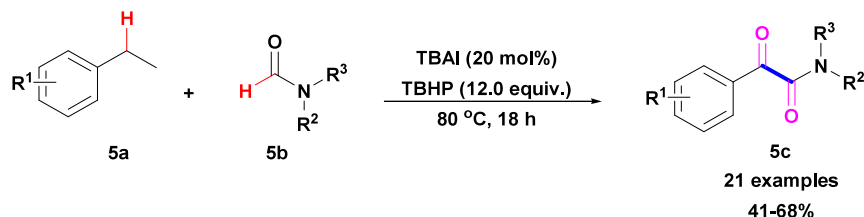
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Scheme 1. Cross-Coupling Reaction of Azoles with Alcohols and Ethers



Scheme 2. CDC Coupling between Amines and Nitroalkanes/Dialkylmalonates Catalyzed by Potassium Iodide

Scheme 3. TBHP/TBAI Oxidative System for the Synthesis of α -Ketoamides

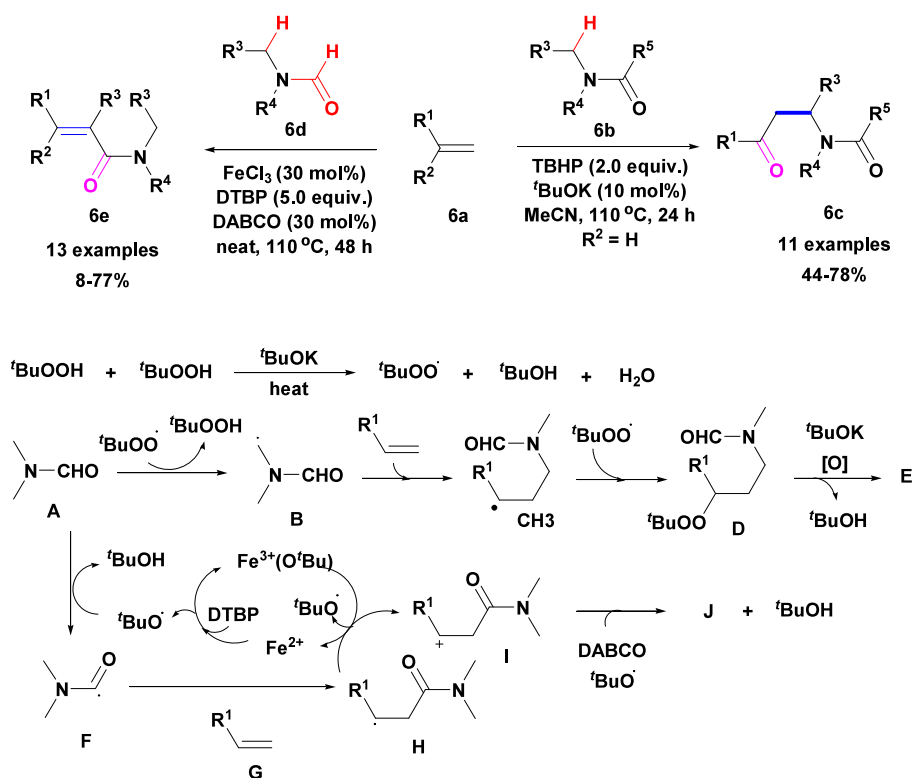
wide range of oxidative transformations, thereby underscoring their pivotal role in the evolution of green and sustainable chemistry. Our primary focus is on the application of organic peroxides, including di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (DTBP), *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate (TBPB), *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), benzoyl peroxide (BPO), dialauroyl peroxide (DLP), and dicumyl peroxide (DCP), in transition-metal-free cyclization and coupling reactions. These peroxides have been successfully employed in the synthesis of various pharmacologically active compounds such as indoles, azoles, coumarins, quinazolines, and quinolones. We have focused herein on the application of the eight peroxides used in carbon–carbon (C–C) bond reactions. The content is organized based on the types of peroxides used in the reactions. Due to the extensive volume of literature, only selected examples are highlighted. The features of these reactions are discussed, and the mechanisms of

particularly challenging reactions are emphasized. Each section concludes with a detailed overview of suitable reagents for various coupling reactions. This review tries to inspire organic chemists to further investigate and innovate the realm of transition-metal-free oxidative transformations. By embracing these green methodologies, the scientific community can contribute to the development of more sustainable and eco-friendly chemical processes, ultimately benefiting both industry and the environment. It is hoped that this review will pave the way for the design of new transformations using peroxides in organic synthesis, especially for metal-free oxidative reactions.

2. OXIDATIVE TRANSFORMATION BY PEROXIDES

2.1. Coupling Reactions with TBHP. Direct C–H functionalization reactions utilize metal catalysts and have notable advantages, but they are also accompanied by

Scheme 4. Oxidation-Induced Coupling of Unactivated Terminal Alkenes Together with Amides by TBHP/^tBuOK Oxidation and Suggested Mechanisms



drawbacks,²⁰ including the employment of expensive and hazardous transition-metal catalysts such as Pd, Ru, Pt, Rh, Cu, Co, Fe, or Ni complexes, as well as the requirement for strong bases in most cases. Consequently, there is a strong desire to develop simple, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly metal-free methods for these transformations. In this regard, researchers have extensively explored application of photocatalysts, nonmetal catalysts, and organic or inorganic oxidants.²¹ C–C bond formation will positively influence the next generation of chemical syntheses, both economically and ecologically. One notable oxidant among them is *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), which is a colorless liquid when dissolved in a 70% aqueous solution.¹⁵ It exhibits a half-life of 1 h at 193 °C and 10 h at 169 °C, making it a commonly used reagent in organic synthesis. Furthermore, the combination of TBHP with tetrabutyl ammonium iodide (TBAI), potassium iodide (KI), molecular iodine (I_2), or potassium *tert*-butoxide ($^t\text{BuOK}$) has shown compatibility and effectiveness as an oxidative system for various cross-coupling transformations. In 2011, the Wang group reported an efficient metal-free approach for the direct C2-alkylation of azoles **1a** using alcohols and ethers **1b** through oxidative C–H activation. This process, referred to as cross-dehydrogenative coupling (CDC), involves the activation of $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ bonds in alcohols and ethers, with $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{--H}$ bonds in azoles in the presence of TBHP under solvent-free conditions (Scheme 1).²² The reaction yielded moderate product yields when other oxidants, such as TBPB, DCP, and 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ), were used. However, when DTBP, dibenzoyl peroxide, and cyclohexanone peroxide were employed, the product yields were significantly lower.

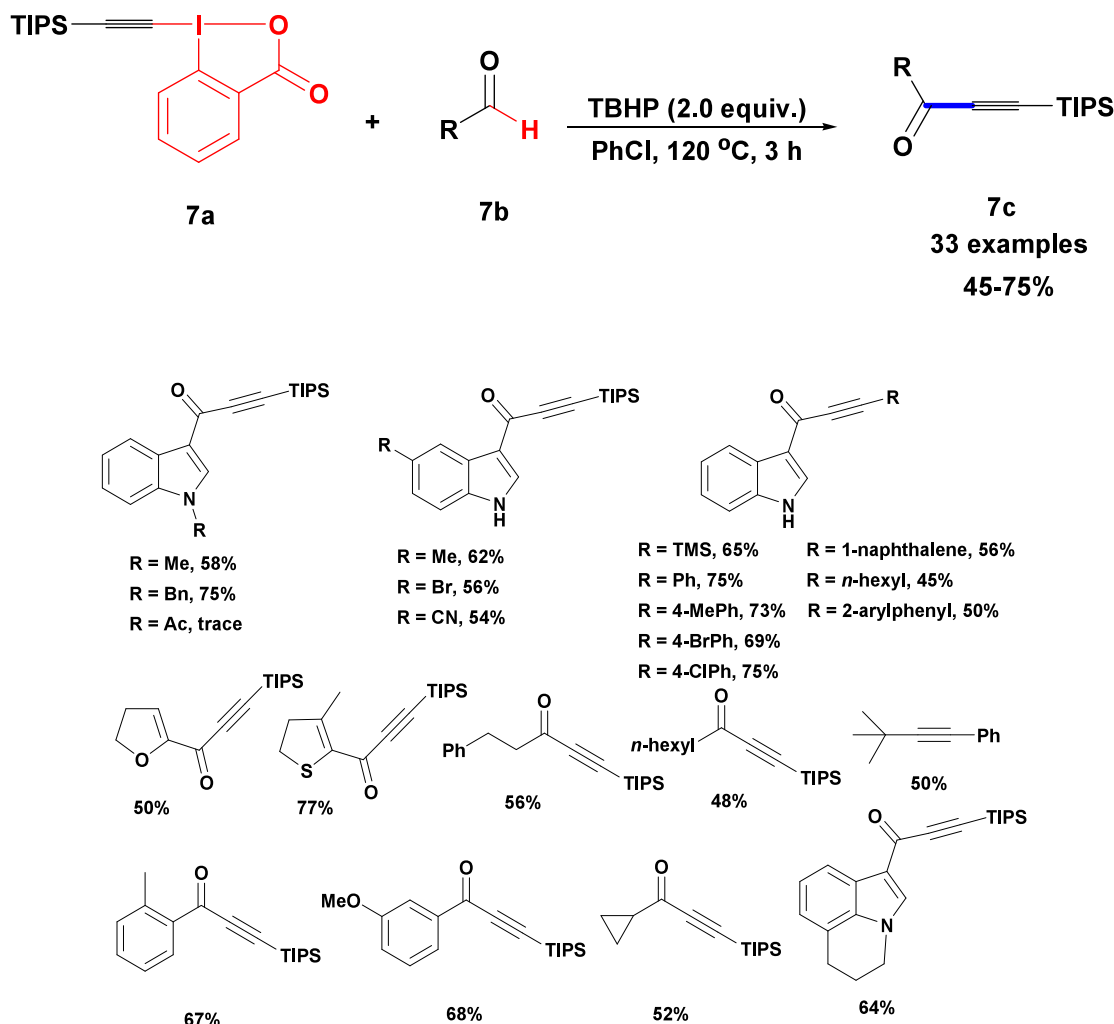
Reddy and colleagues reported the utilization of KI and TBHP in the C–C coupling of amines **2a** and **3a** together with

nitroalkanes **2b** (Scheme 2).²³ This reaction enabled the synthesis of various biologically significant *N*-heterocycles, including tetrahydroisoquinolines **2c** and 3,4-dihydroquinazoline **3c**. Excellent yields were obtained for all isolated products. The same methodology was also applied to the synthesis of dialkyl 2-(2,3-diphenyl-3,4-dihydroquinazolin-4-yl) malonate derivatives **4b**, using dialkylmalonates **4a** as nucleophiles instead of nitroalkanes.

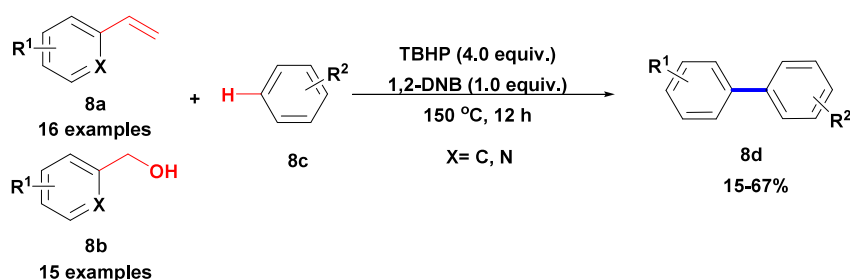
Sun et al. utilized the TBAI/TBHP oxidative system to synthesize α -ketoamides **5c** by activating multiple inert $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ bonds in ethylarenes **5a** and their subsequent reaction with *N,N*-dialkylformamide **5b**, as shown in Scheme 3.²⁴ This transformation involved the cleavage of the C–N bond in *N,N*-dialkylformamide by this oxidative system, which was confirmed by a ^{13}C -isotope labeling experiment. Moreover, the product's two oxygen atoms were produced through the oxidation of the compound by TBHP.

The Li group recently introduced a novel method for the oxidation-induced coupling of inactivated terminal alkenes (**6a**) with amides (**6b** and **6d**) as shown in Scheme 4.²⁵ This process involves the selective modification of $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ bonds next to the nitrogen atom using the TBHP/ $^t\text{BuOK}$ system, resulting in the formation of β -amino ketones (**6c**). However, when FeCl_3 is incorporated in the presence of DTBP and DABCO, the chemoselectivity changes, leading to the production of α,β -unsaturated amides (**6e**). It is suggested that FeCl_3 reduces the reactivity of alkenes (**6a**) toward the $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ bonds of amines by consuming OH radicals and the formation of $\text{Fe}^{n+}(\text{OH})$ species. Two proposed radical pathways are illustrated in Scheme 4. In the first pathway, alkyl radical **B** is generated by abstracting the α -H atom of **A** with $^t\text{BuOO}^\bullet$, derived from TBHP upon heating with $^t\text{BuOK}$. Alkyl radical **C** is then formed by adding **B** to alkene **G**. The

Scheme 5. Cross-Coupling of Aldehydes with Ethynyl Benziodoxolones



Scheme 6. TBHP-Promoted Cross-Coupling Reaction of Styrenes and Benzyl Alcohols with Arenes



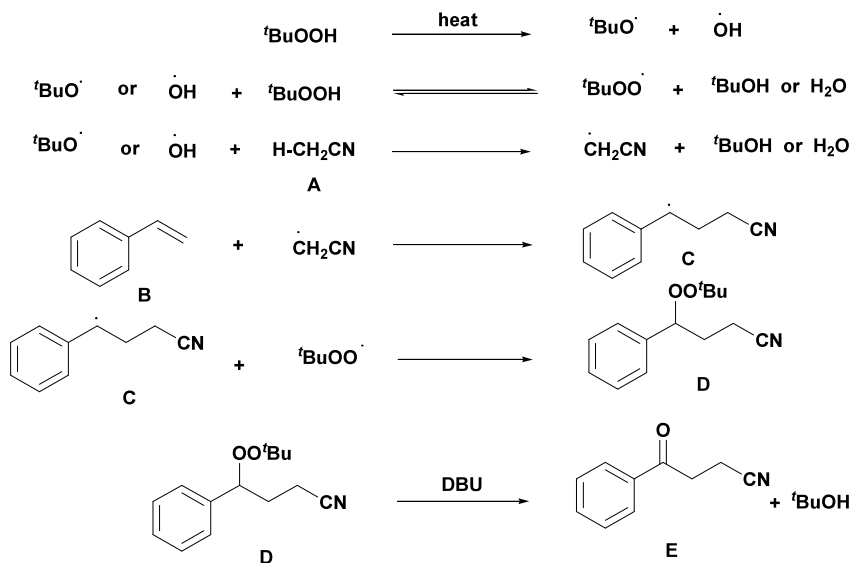
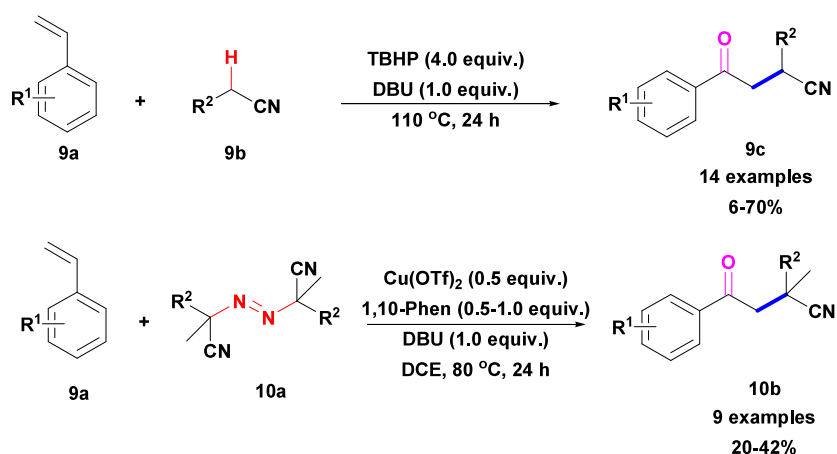
reaction of **C** with $^t\text{BuOO}^\cdot$ produces intermediate **D**, whose O–O bond is cleaved by $^t\text{BuOK}$, followed by oxidation with TBHP to yield compound **E**. In the second pathway, Fe^{2+} ions convert DTBP to $\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$, generating $^t\text{BuO}^\cdot$ radicals. These radicals detach a hydrogen atom from **A**, forming radical carbonyl **F**. Subsequent addition across alkene **G** produces alkyl radical **H**. A single electron transfer (SET) between **H** and $\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$ generates alkyl cation **I**, Fe^{2+} species, and $^t\text{BuO}^-$. Finally, **I** undergoes β -H elimination with $^t\text{BuO}^-$ in the presence of DABCO, yielding the desired product **J**.

Li and colleagues have devised a metal-free approach for TBHP-mediated oxidative alkylation of carbonyl $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{--H}$ bonds in aldehydes (**7b**) using (triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl

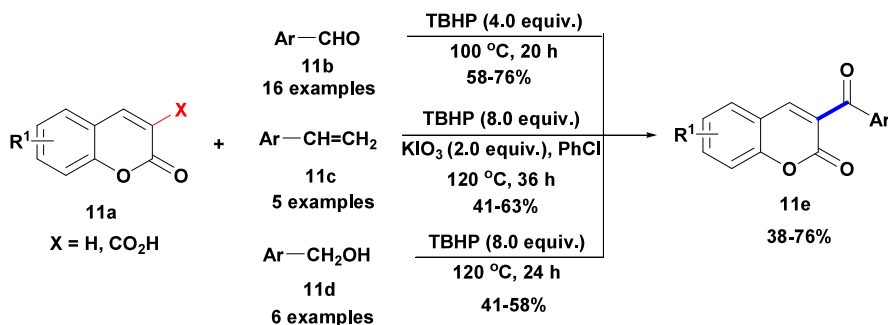
benziodoxolones (TIPS-EBX) (**7a**), leading to the synthesis of ynones (**7c**) as illustrated in Scheme 5.²⁶ This protocol utilizes an oxidative radical coupling process for carbonyl $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{--H}$ bonds, providing a versatile approach to construct ynone derivatives flexible to a diverse range of substrates and boasting excellent functional group compatibility.

Shah and Kumar developed a method for the oxidative coupling of styrenes **8a** or benzyl alcohols **8b** with arenes **8c**, leading to the formation of biaryls **8d** (Scheme 6).²⁷ The reaction process involves the formation of an aldehyde intermediate through the oxidative C–C bond cleavage of styrene and the oxidation of benzyl alcohols. This intermediate then undergoes decarbonylation and arylation steps to produce

Scheme 7. Functionalization of Alkyl Nitriles and AIBN Analogues with Terminal Vinyl Arenes and the Associated Mechanistic Pathway



Scheme 8. Synthesis of 3-Acyl Coumarins with Various Acylating Reagents

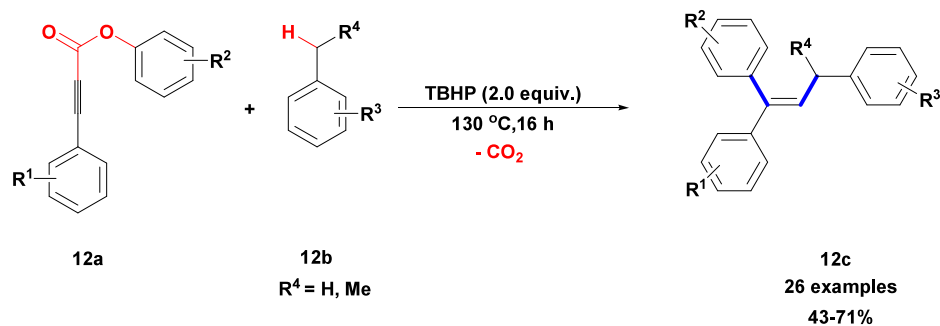
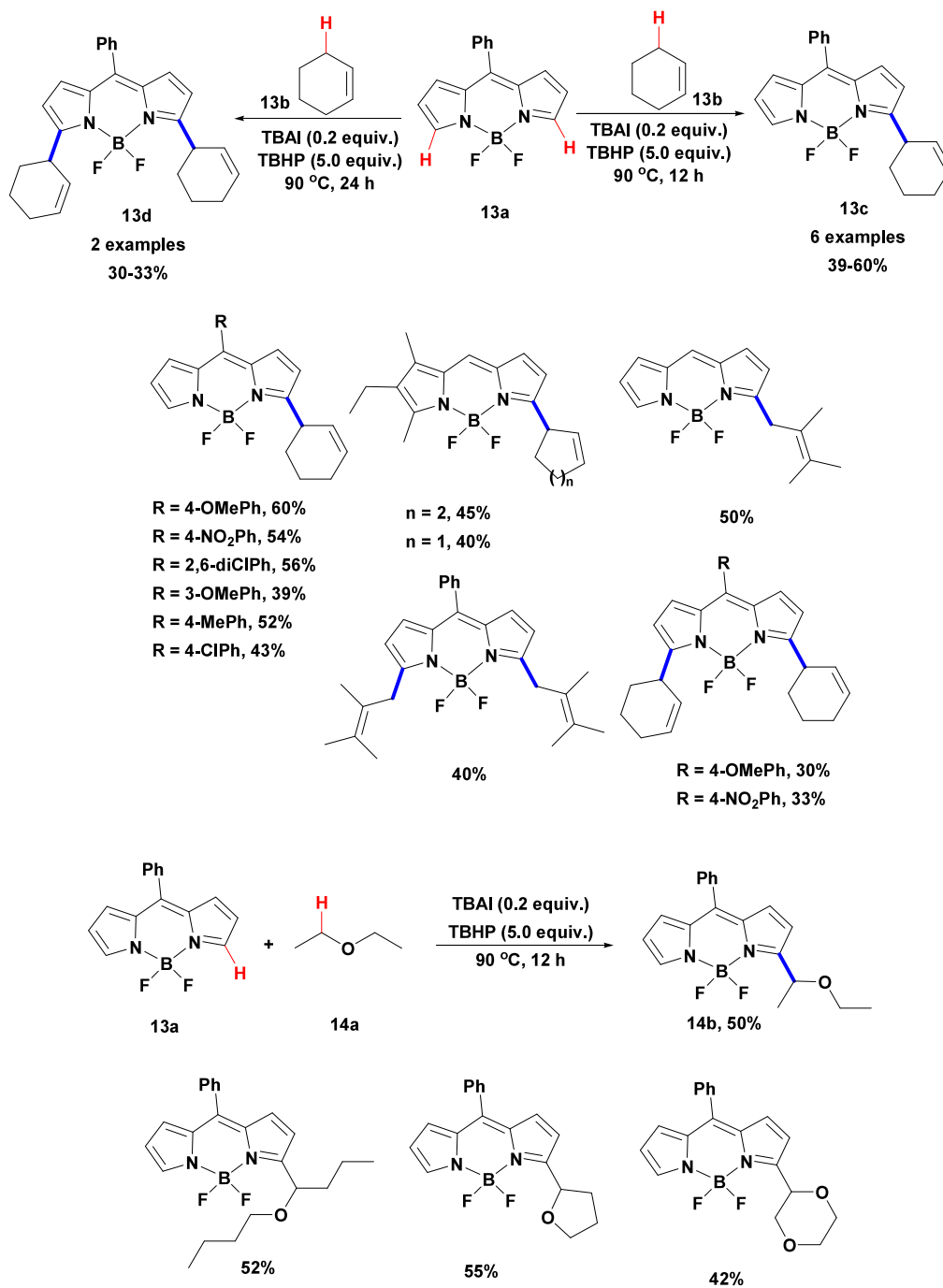


the desired biaryl compounds. The reaction efficiently works across a broad spectrum of substrates and shows supreme tolerance for diverse functional groups. However, using 2-vinylpyridine as a styrene derivative reduced the yield.

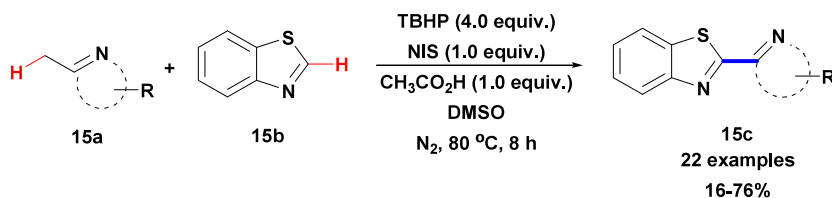
Wang and colleagues introduced a metal-free approach for the functionalization of inactivated C(sp³)-H bonds in alkyl nitriles **9b** with terminal vinyl arenes **9a** (Scheme 7).²⁸ The

reaction is advantageous due to its simplicity, broad substrate range, and atom economy. In the presence of Cu(OTf)₂/1,10-phenanthroline/DBU, azodiisobutyronitrile (AIBN) **10a** and its analogs react with terminal vinyl arenes **9a** to produce γ -ketonitriles **10b** through a radical process. The involvement of a free-radical pathway was certified by catching an alkyl radical with a radical scavenger and through density functional theory

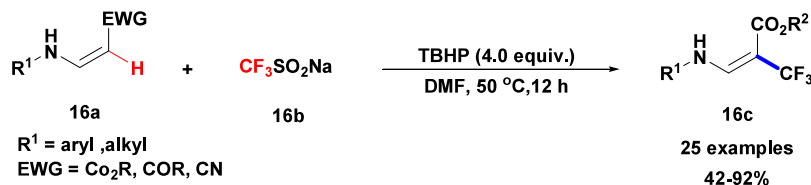
Scheme 9. Synthesis of Three-Substituent Alkenes from Aryl Alkynoates and Toluene Derivatives

Scheme 10. Synthesis of α -Functionalized BODIPYs Using Allylic Alkenes and Ethers

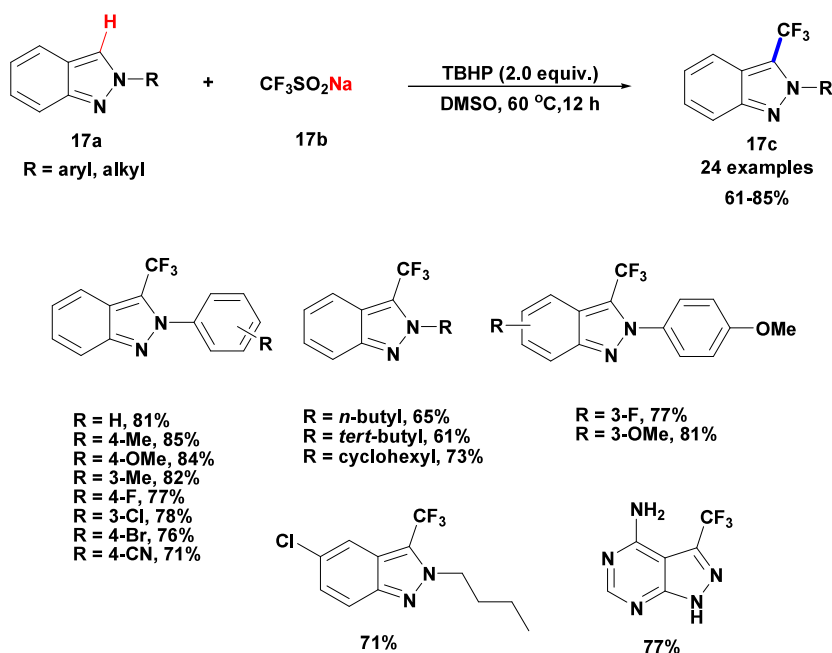
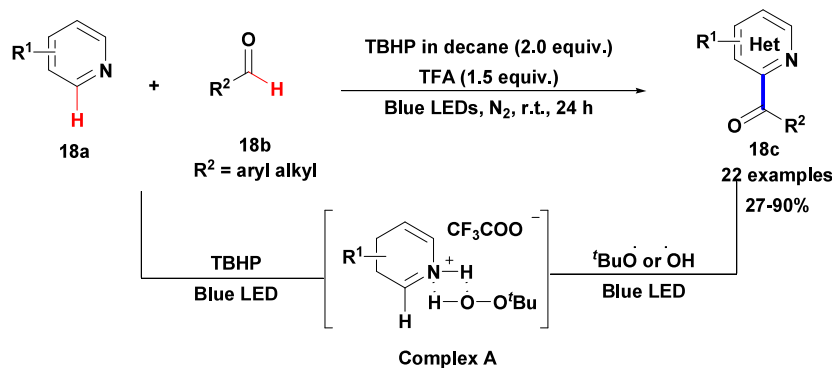
Scheme 11. Synthesis of 2-Heteroarylbenzothiazoles Using NIS and TBHP



Scheme 12. TBHP-Mediated Trifluoromethylation of Enamines with Trifluoromethanesulfinate



Scheme 13. Direct Trifluoromethylation of Indazoles with Sodium Trifluoromethanesulfinate

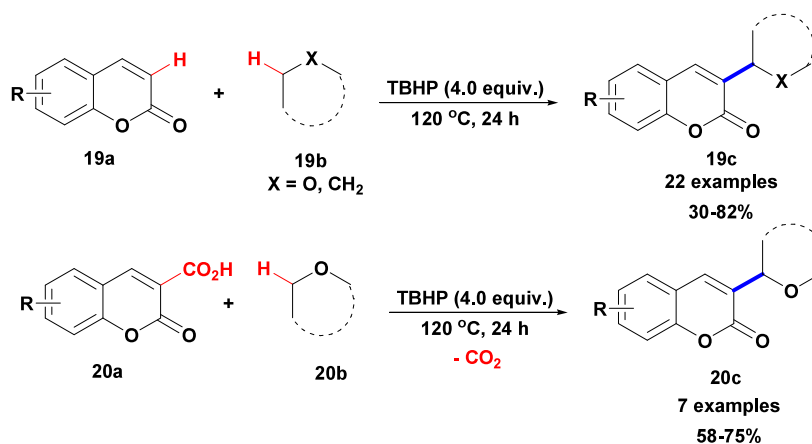
Scheme 14. Acylation of *N*-Heterocycles with Aldehydes

(DFT) calculations. Initially, ^tBuO[•] and HO[•] radicals, generated from the decomposition of TBHP under the reaction conditions, abstracted the α-H atom of acetonitrile A, forming a primary alkyl radical ·CH₂CN. This ·CH₂CN radical then adds to the double bond of vinyl arene B, creating

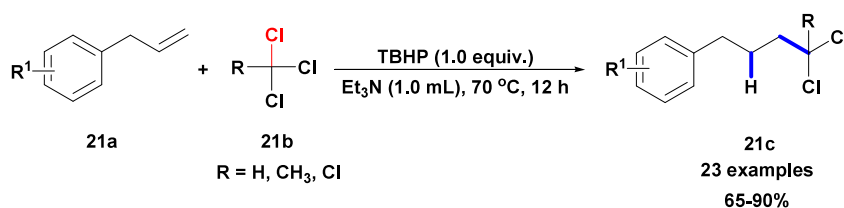
a radical intermediate C, which reacts with ^tBuO[•] to form intermediate D. Finally, peroxide intermediate D is converted to final product E in the presence of DBU.

3-Aroyl coumarins have demonstrated diverse biological activities, including α-glucosidase inhibitory, DPPH scaveng-

Scheme 15. TBHP-Mediated C3-Alkylation of Coumarins and Coumarin-3-carboxylic Acids



Scheme 16. Oxidative Radical Addition–Chlorination of Alkenes



ing, antibacterial, and antioxidant activities, and have also been used as fluorescent chemosensors.^{29–32} Jafarpour and Abbasnia devised a metal-free TBHP-mediated technique for the regioselective C–H functionalization of coumarins 11a, resulting in the synthesis of 3-acyl coumarins 11e (Scheme 8).³³ This approach involves reacting coumarins or coumarin-3-carboxylic acids with aromatic aldehydes 11b. Additionally, styrenes 11c and benzyl alcohols 11d were used as acylating agents and demonstrated good reactivity. This protocol enables the efficient regioselective carbonylation of coumarins with aromatic aldehydes through metal-free coupling, effectively utilizing benzyl alcohol and styrene derivatives. *In situ* decarboxylation extends its applicability to coumarin-3-carboxylic acids, showing good functional group tolerance and efficiency.

Wang and their team described a technique for the oxidative difunctionalization of aryl alkynoate 12a, which includes intramolecular 1,4-aryl migration followed by a decarboxylation tandem process. The reaction utilized TBHP as the sole oxidant (Scheme 9).³⁴ Comparable yields were achieved using cumene hydroperoxide (CHP) instead of TBHP, whereas other peroxides such as DTBP, TBPB, DCP, and BPO led to reduced yields. Oxidants such as H₂O₂, O₂, m-CPBA, and PhI(OAc)₂ and inorganic oxidants like K₂S₂O₈ and Ag₂O failed to produce the desired product. This technique provides a straightforward and selective route for synthesizing three-substituent alkenes 12c from basic toluene derivatives 12b and aryl alkynoates 12a.

Jiao and colleagues described a highly regioselective CDC reaction of boron dipyrromethene (BODIPY) dyes 13a with allylic alkenes 13b and ethers 14a utilizing TBHP as the oxidant (Scheme 10).³⁵ Alternative oxidants, including O₂, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ), K₂S₂O₈, and DTBP, were determined to be unsuccessful in facilitating this reaction. The reaction followed a radical route and provided a convenient method to synthesize diverse α -functionalized

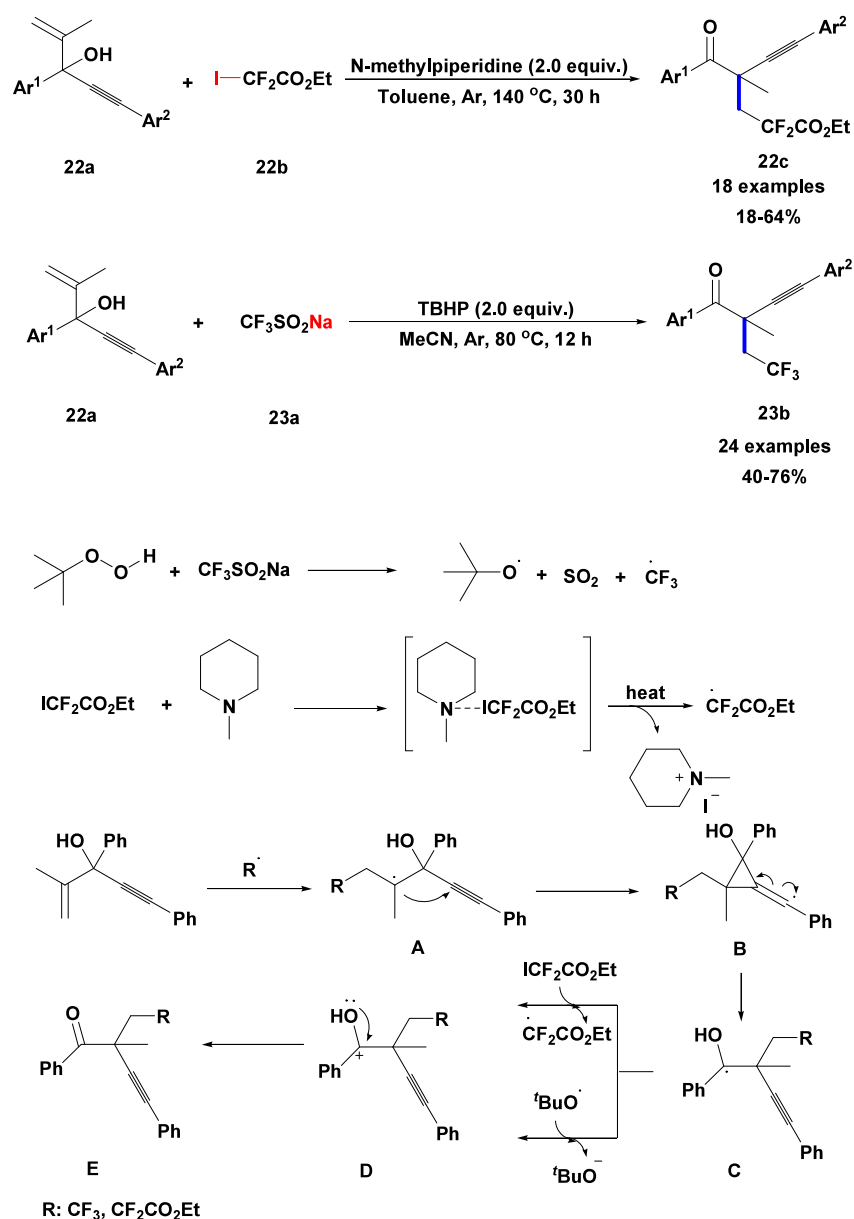
BODIPYs 13c and 13d, which were challenging to access using previous methods.

Traditionally, the synthesis of 2-substituted benzothiazole derivatives involves the condensation of 2-aminothiophenol with aldehydes, esters, and carboxylic acids³⁶ or utilizes transition metals as catalysts in the cross-coupling reactions between aryl halides and benzothiazole.^{37–40} However, in 2017, Ma and his team introduced a one-pot metal-free method for synthesizing 2-heteroaryl benzothiazoles 15c using *N*-iodosuccinimide (NIS) and TBHP as an efficient oxidative system (Scheme 11).⁴¹ This method enables the oxidative condensation of benzothiazoles 15b with quinoline derivatives 15a, leading to the creation of the desired coupling products.

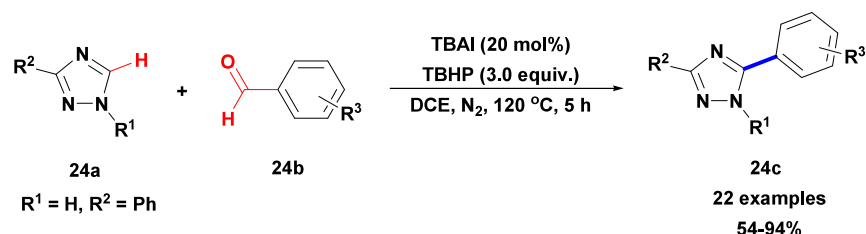
In the same year, Jiang and colleagues introduced a cost-effective, transition-metal-free method for the trifluoromethylation of enamines 16a, utilizing trifluoromethanesulfonate 16b (commonly known as Langlois' reagent) as the CF₃ group source (Scheme 12).⁴² A diverse array of β -trifluoromethyl-substituted enamines 16c with *E*-configurations were synthesized by selectively attacking the electron-deficient CF₃ radical to the electronegative β -carbon. Screening other peroxides, such as DTBP, H₂O₂, and benzoquinone (BQ), was unsuccessful; however, K₂S₂O₈ worked with moderate efficacy. The method could be employed for efficient preparation of (*E*)- β -CF₃ enamines via direct C–H trifluoromethylation using Langlois' reagent and TBHP. The reaction benefits are mild to excellent yield, air- and water-tolerant conditions, and available β -amino acid precursors.

Hajra developed a method for the trifluoromethylation of indazoles 17a using CF₃ radicals generated from Langlois' reagent 17b under the same reaction conditions. This approach achieved the trifluoromethylation of a series of substituted 2*H*-indazoles, resulting in products 17c using the inexpensive Langlois' reagent as the CF₃ source (Scheme 13).⁴³ This method provides a straightforward regioselective trifluoromethylation of 2*H*-indazoles under mild, metal-free

Scheme 17. Radical Difluoroalkylation/Trifluoromethylation and Alkynylation of Unactivated Alkenes, Along with the Proposed Mechanism



Scheme 18. TBAI/TBHP-Mediated Synthesis of 1,3,5-Trisubstituted/3,5-Disubstituted 1H-1,2,4-Triazoles

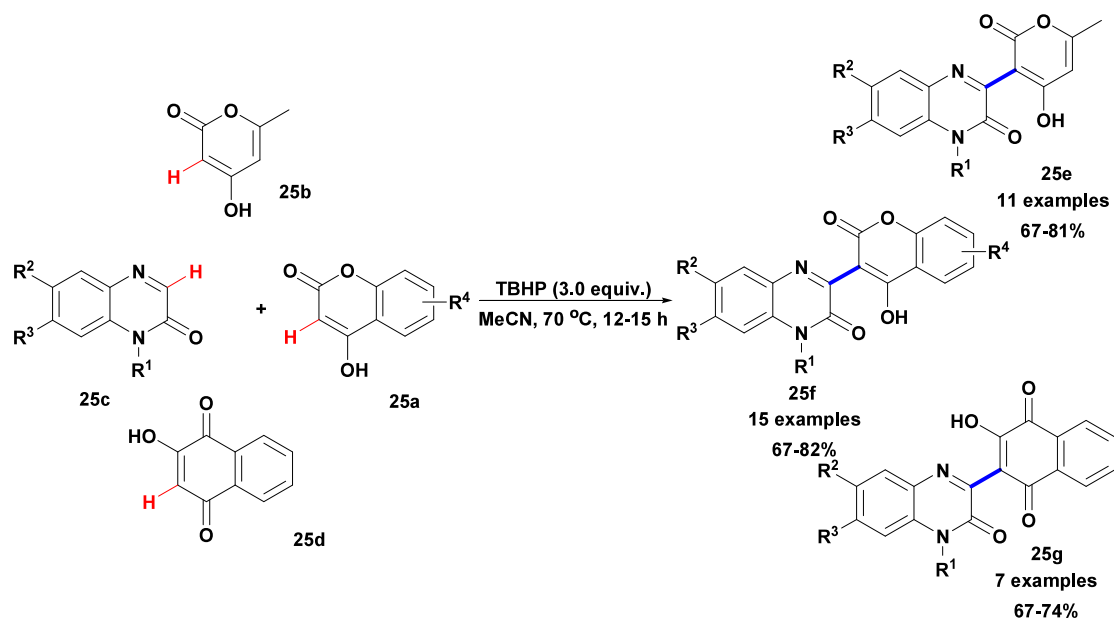


conditions. It demonstrated high functional group tolerance, regioselectivity, and scalability. This approach shows potential in the fields of organic synthesis, medicinal chemistry, and material sciences.

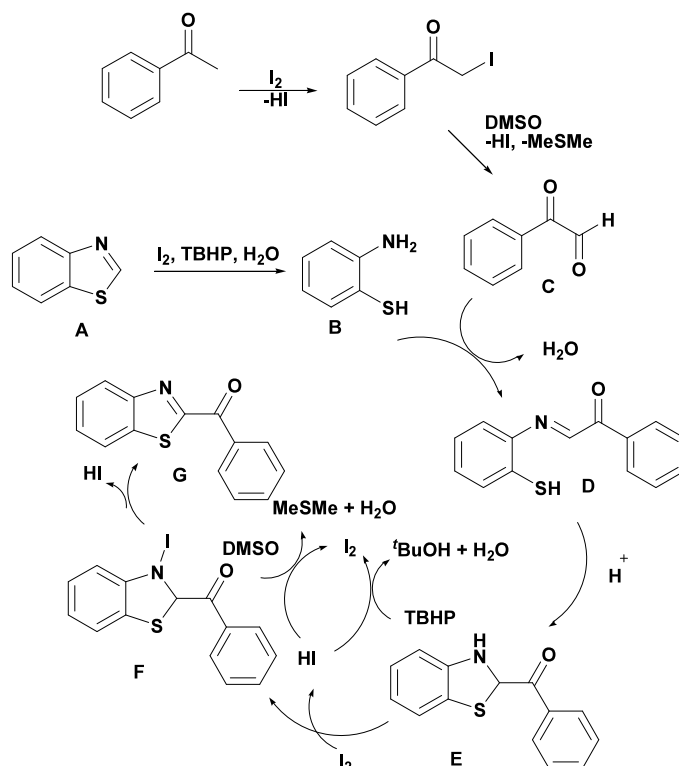
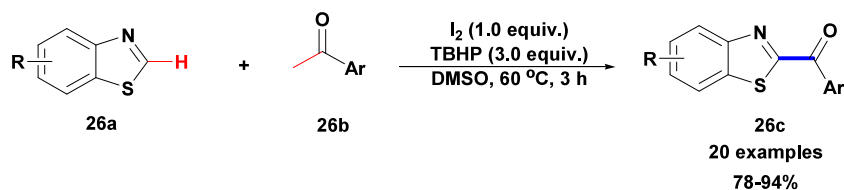
Lei et al. developed a visible-light-mediated direct cross-coupling reaction involving *N*-heterocycles 18a and aldehydes 18b (Scheme 14).⁴⁴ They successfully synthesized acylated *N*-

heterocycles 18c using either aliphatic or aromatic aldehydes, achieving moderate to high yields. The reaction proceeded with the formation of complex A in the presence of blue LED and TBHP. Then, through a HAT process, acyl radical formation, and subsequent SET process, the target product was formed. This method could efficiently and mildly acylate

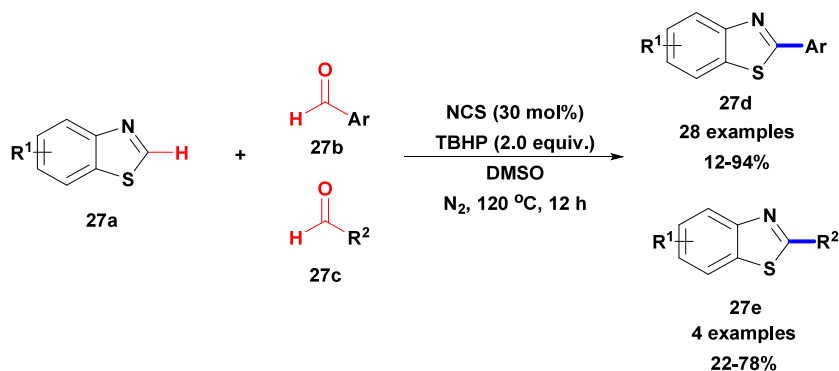
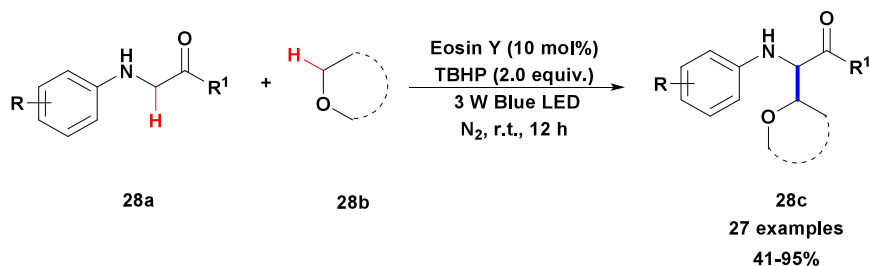
Scheme 19. CDC Reaction between Quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones and 4-Hydroxycoumarins, 4-Hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone, or 2-Hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone



Scheme 20. I_2 /TBHP as an Oxidative System for Acylation of the Benzothiazoles Using Aryl Ketones and Plausible Mechanism



Scheme 21. NCS/TBHP-Promoted Arylation of the Benzothiazoles Using Aryl Aldehydes

Scheme 22. α -Alkylation of Glycine Derivatives via Ether Compounds

various *N*-heterocycles with diverse aldehydes, showing high functional group tolerance and scalability.

Regioselective C3-alkylation of coumarins **19a** and coumarin-3-carboxylic acids **20a** with inactive ethers and alkanes **19b** and **20b** was achieved by TBHP as a commercially available oxidant (Scheme 15).⁴⁵ The cross-coupling reaction was successfully performed under conditions free of metals, bases, and solvents, demonstrating efficacy across a wide range of coumarins. This practical and innovative approach, with its wide substrate scope, presents a valuable substitute for traditional transition-metal-catalyzed cross-coupling methods. It offers significant potential for expanding the library of coumarins, which are particularly prominent in the pharmaceutical industry.

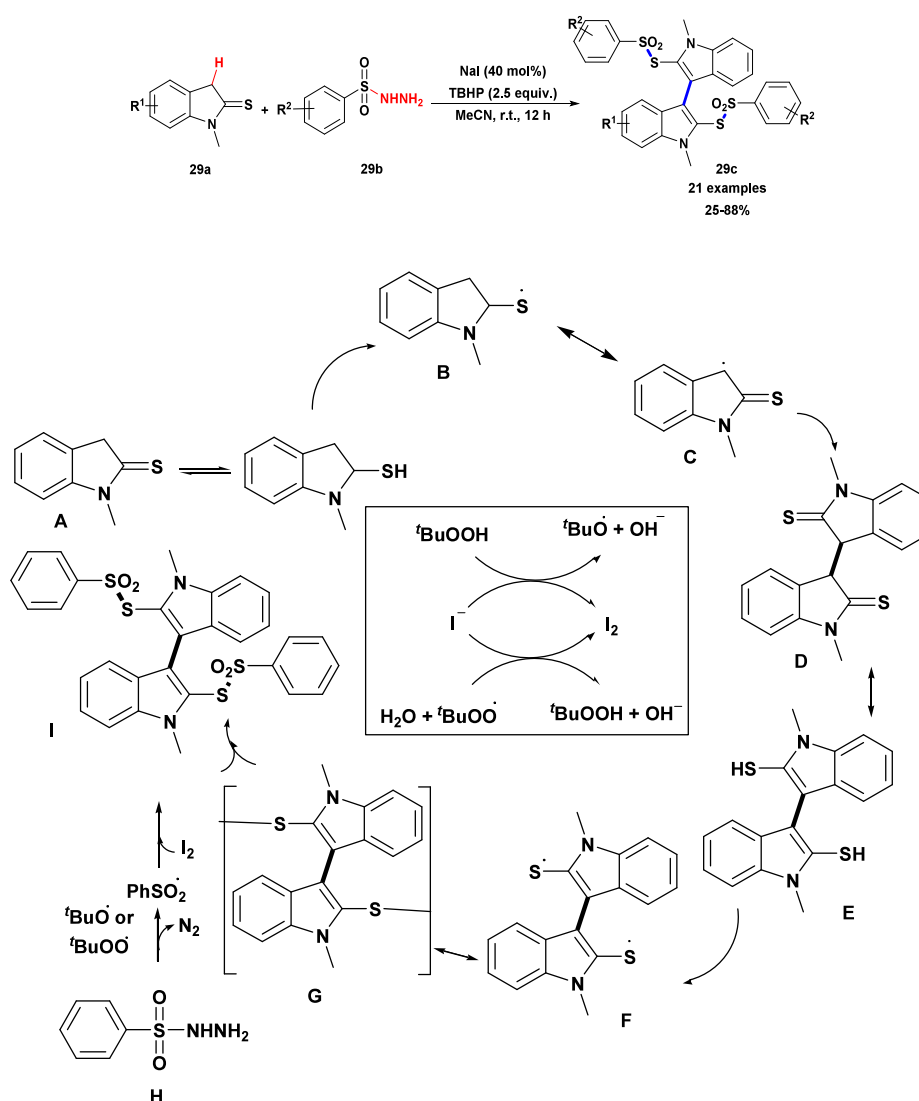
Liu and colleagues have devised a metal-free method using TBHP to synthesize a series of dichloroaryl compounds **21c** from terminal alkenes **21a** (Scheme 16).⁴⁶ The reaction involves oxidative radical addition/chlorination with simple chloro reagents, eliminating the need for inert gas protection. This efficient, regioselective one-pot method is compatible with a wide range of functional groups. Preliminary mechanistic studies suggest that an oxidative radical process is involved, with triethylamine functioning as a base to suppress ATRA and facilitate proton transfer. This transformation showcases considerable potential for novel organic reactions. This strategy demonstrates high efficiency across a wide range of substrates and exhibits excellent tolerance for various functional groups, offering a new metal-free approach for the synthesis of biaryls. The advantages include metal-free conditions, avoiding metal catalysts, and being greener and more sustainable. It also offers excellent functional group tolerance, allowing a wide range of substrates to achieve appropriate yields of the products. However, the disadvantage is a reduction in yield with certain derivatives, such as using 2-vinylpyridine, which decreases the reaction yield.

In 2019, the Liang research team expanded the radical difluoroalkylation/trifluoromethylation and alkynylation of unactivated alkenes **22a** under mild conditions (Scheme 17).⁴⁷ This method involved synthesizing CF₂/CF₃-substituted linear alkynyl ketones **22c** via 1,2-alkynyl radical migration. The authors suggested a radical pathway for this transformation, where CF₂CO₂Et and \cdot CF₃ radical species were generated from ICF₂CO₂Et **22b** and CF₃SO₂Na **23a** in the presence of *N*-methylpiperidine and TBHP. The addition of \cdot CF₂CO₂Et or \cdot CF₃ radicals to the inactivated double bond of the 1,4-enyne formed the radical intermediate **A**, which then underwent 3-exo-dig cyclization subsequently to 1,2-alkynyl migration to produce the hydroxyalkyl radical **C**. Intermediate **C** was oxidized by \cdot CF₂CO₂Et or \cdot BuO radicals to yield intermediate **D**, which was later transformed into target product **E** via deprotonation (Scheme 17).

Triazoles, identifiable by their five-membered unsaturated ring with three nitrogen atoms, have been recognized as biologically and pharmaceutically active molecules (Scheme 18).^{35,48–53} In 2020, a general procedure for synthesizing 1,3,5-trisubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles **24c** from 1,3-disubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles **24a** in the presence of TBAI/TBHP via decarbonylation of aromatic aldehydes **24b** was reported. Abebe Agisho and colleagues developed a straightforward, efficient, and environmentally friendly method for synthesizing 3,5-disubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles and 1,3,5-trisubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles from 3-monosubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles and 1,3-disubstituted 1,2,4-triazoles, to utilize potassium iodide as a catalyst and TBHP as an oxidizing agent under gentle reaction conditions. This approach provided structurally varied diverse 3,5-disubstituted and 1,3,5-trisubstituted 1,2,4-triazole compounds in good to outstanding yields.

Oxidative coupling of quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones **25c** with coumarin derivatives **25a**, 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone **25b**, or 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone **25d** can be efficiently promoted by TBHP (Scheme 19).⁵⁴ Various 3-substituted

Scheme 23. Cross-Coupling Reaction between Indole-2-thiones and Arylsulfonyl Hydrazides and Proposed Mechanism Reported



quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one derivatives of **25c** were compatible with this method. The reaction also successfully proceeded using K₂S₂O₈, resulting in the coupling products with good yields. Under the reaction conditions, other oxidants such as Na₂S₂O₈, (NH₄)₂S₂O₈, Mn(OAc)₃, CAN, TBPB, and DTBP were ineffective for this transformation. Simple operation and using no toxic reagents were the advantages of this protocol.

Acylation of the benzothiazoles **26a** using aryl ketones **26b** as an acylating agent can be achieved by I₂ and TBHP as ring-opening reagents with a short reaction time and at low temperature (Scheme 20).⁵⁵ According to the reported mechanism for the reaction, aryl ketone is transformed into arylglyoxal **A** during exposure to I₂ in DMSO with Kornblum oxidation. HI is oxidized by DMSO or TBHP to reproduce I₂ during exposure to I₂, TBHP, and H₂O, and the thiazole ring undergoes a ring-opening reaction to form 2-aminobenzethiol. The reaction of intermediate **B** with intermediate **C** produces imine intermediate **D**, which is then converted to intermediate **E** through an intramolecular addition reaction. Next, the substitution reaction between intermediate **E** and I₂ produces intermediate **F**, which ends with the final product **G** via the elimination of HI (Scheme 20).

Arylation of benzothiazoles **27a** can be carried out by using aryl aldehydes **27b** with TBHP and *N*-chlorosuccinimide (NCS) (Scheme 21).⁵⁶ Acylated products **27e** were obtained amid the reaction conditions when 5-acetalbenzothiazole and aliphatic aldehydes **27c** were used as the substrates. Also, it has been found that DMSO can act as a strong Lewis base, facilitating the cleavage of C–H acidic bonds. The inexpensive organic catalyst NCS serves as a radical initiator with TBHP as the oxidant. This reaction accommodates a broad substrate scope, yielding arylated products in 12–94% yield for 28 examples. Additionally, the method produces acylated benzothiazoles from aryl aldehydes and aliphatic aldehydes with four examples. Nevertheless, the reaction's disadvantages consist of requiring high temperatures and extended reaction durations as well as low isolate yield for some of the products.

Amides constitute vital structural elements in biologically relevant molecules, such as proteins, natural products, pharmaceuticals, and synthetic intermediates.^{57–59} In 2021, Yao et al. synthesized a series of α -etherized glycine derivatives **28c**, consisting of α -amino esters, α -amino ketones, or α -amino amides, through α -alkylation of glycines **28a** with open-chain and cyclic ethers **28b** (Scheme 22).⁶⁰ This visible-light-

Scheme 24. TBAI-Catalyzed Homocoupling of Benzyl Ketones

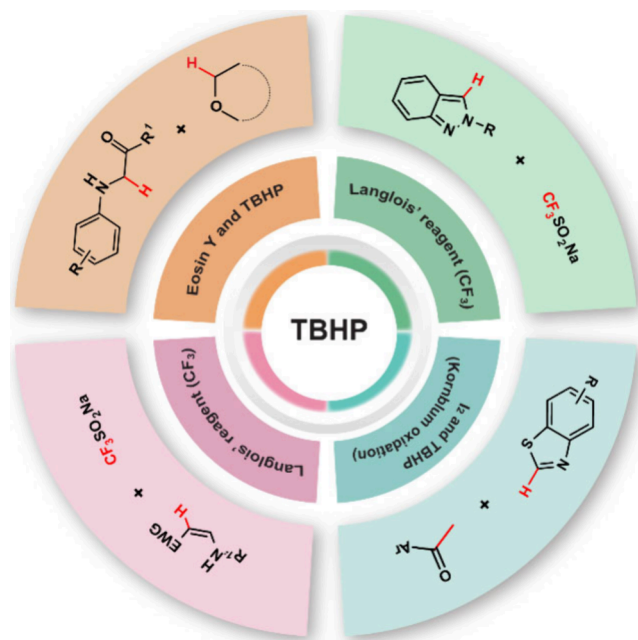
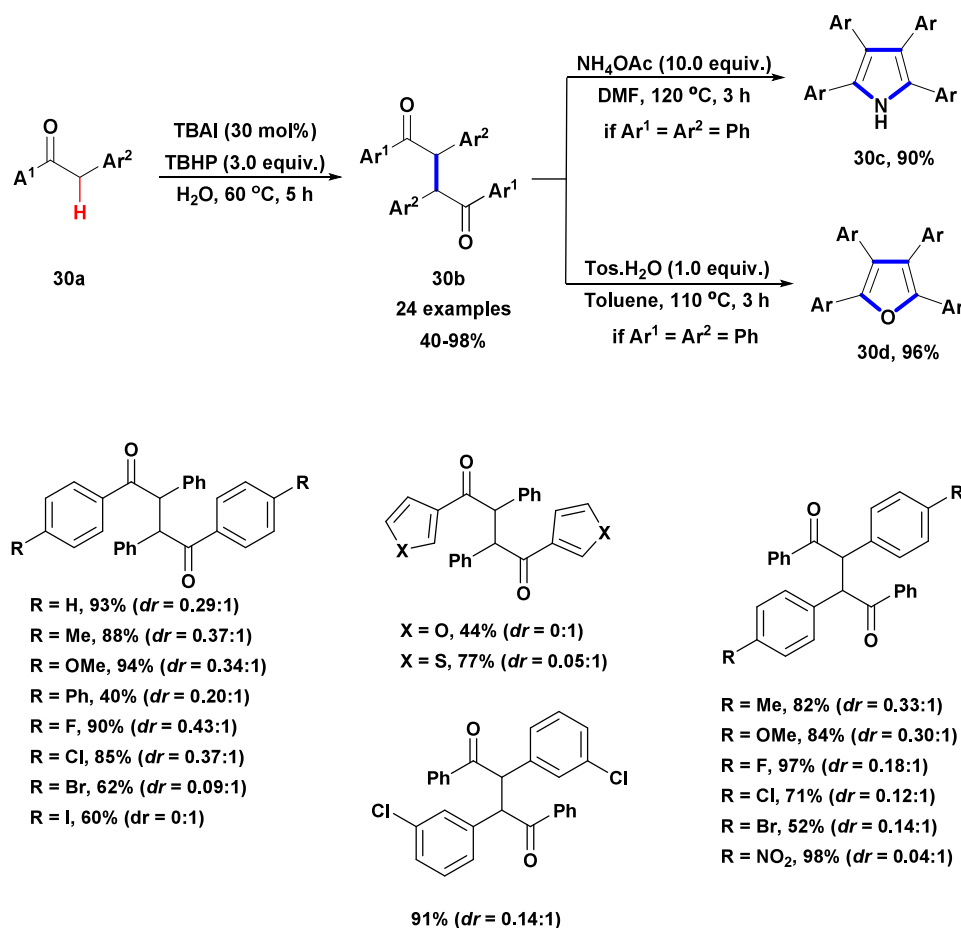


Figure 1. Suitable reagents for various types of coupling reactions with TBHP.

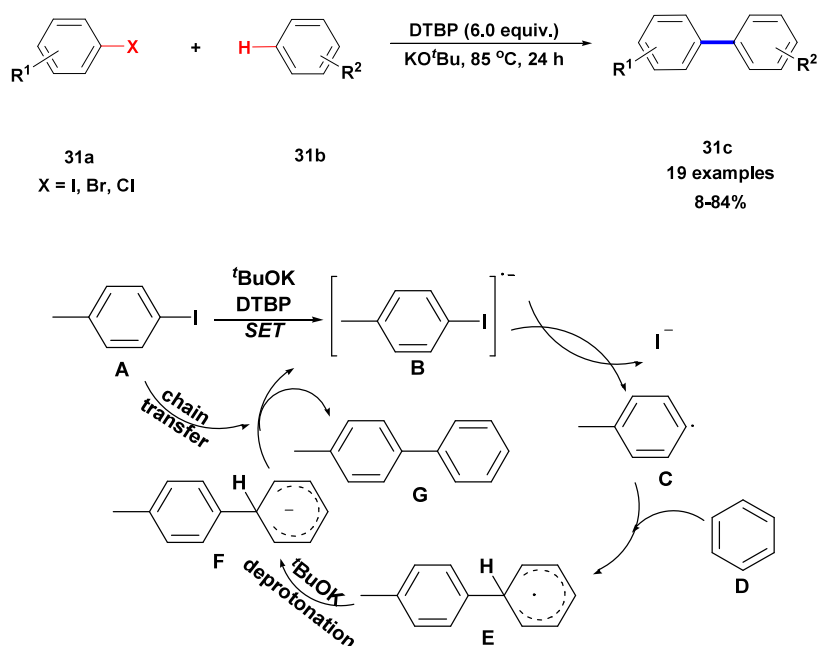
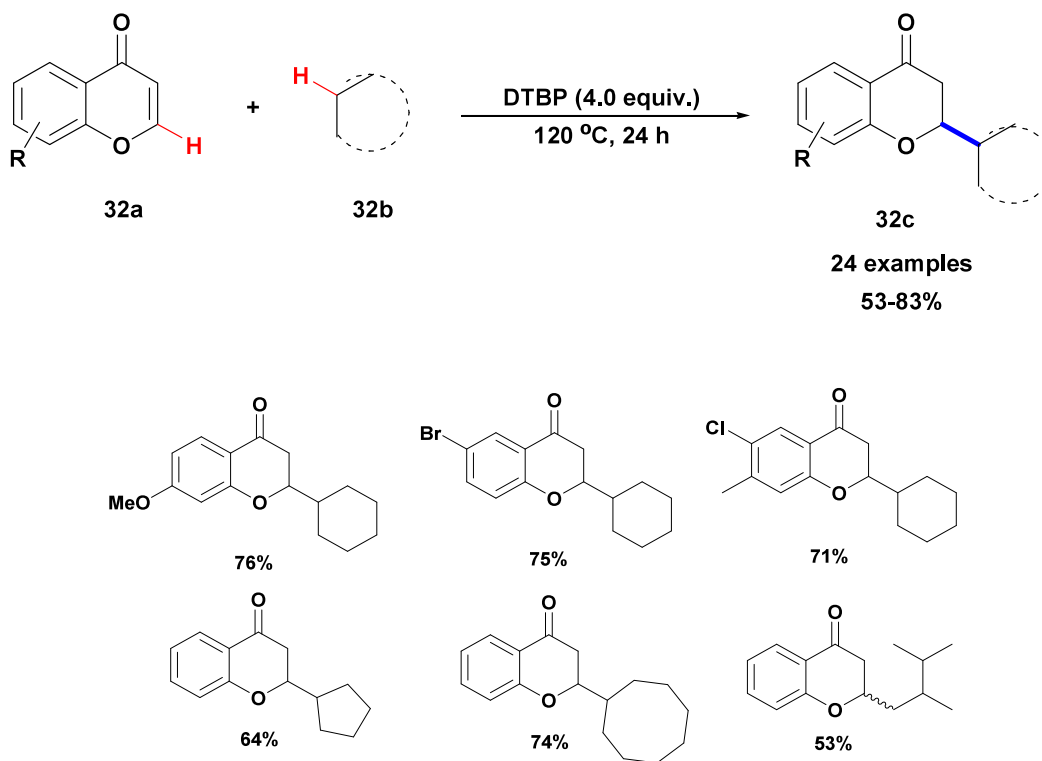
induced oxidative α -alkylation of glycine derivatives uses catalytic eosin Y and a 3 W blue LED, attaining good to supreme yields and functional group tolerance using TBHP at

room temperature. It delivers a budget-friendly, metal-free, and mild synthesis solution.

In one study, one-pot metal-free cross-coupling reaction between indole-2-thiones **29a** and arylsulfonyl hydrazides **29b** afforded achiral axial 3,3'-biindole-2,2'-dibenzenesulfonothioate derivatives **29c** (Scheme 23).⁶¹ The reaction was performed in the presence of a NaI/TBHP catalytic system. Applying TBHP and DTBP was not useful in this oxidative reaction. The product was also produced in the presence of I_2 , TBAI, NIS, or KI as catalysts, but in lower yields. The radical pathway mechanism reported by the authors is seen in the scheme. In the proposed mechanism, the reaction of TBHP with I^- generates $^t\text{BuOO}\cdot$ and $^t\text{BuO}\cdot$ radicals. Next, these radicals react with indole-2-thione **A** to obtain radical **B**, which gives compound **C** via a homocoupling process. Oxidation of the thiol enol tautomer of intermediate **C** affords radical **D**. The homocoupling of radical **D** leads to disulfide **E**. On the other hand, under oxidative conditions, sulfonyl radicals are formed from sulfonyl hydrazides, which then produce arenesulfonyl iodides by I_2 . Finally, arenesulfonyl iodides react with disulfide **E** to create product **I** through the radical propagation (Scheme 23).

Just recently, in 2022, Bai and associates described an environmentally benign approach to produce diaryldiketone derivatives **30b** applying TBAI and TBHP in an aqueous medium (Scheme 24).⁶² Both electron-donating groups ($-\text{CH}_3$ and $-\text{OCH}_3$) and electron-withdrawing groups ($-\text{F}$, $-\text{Cl}$, $-\text{Br}$, and $-\text{NO}_2$) on the aromatic rings were compatible in the present reaction. Heteroaromatic substrates, including

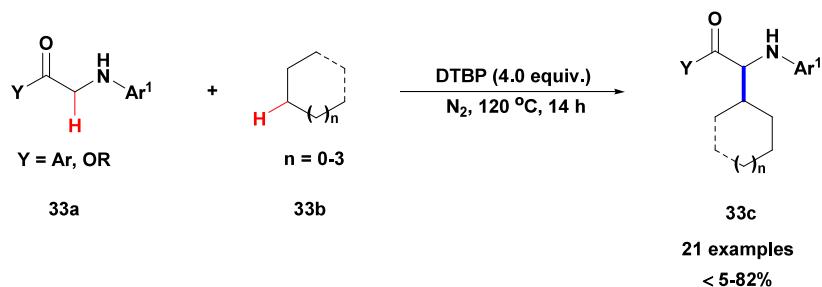
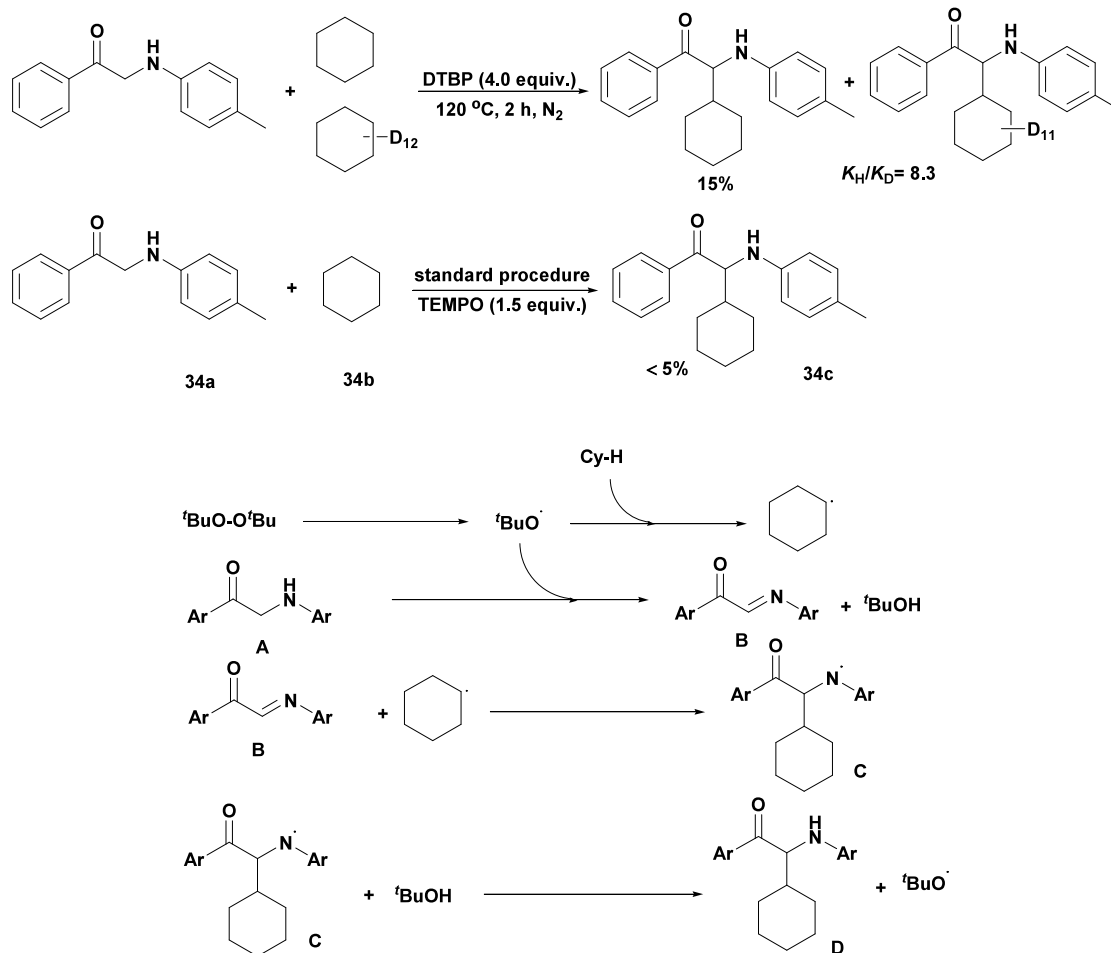
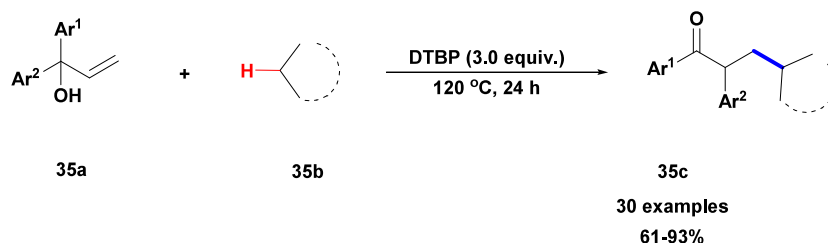
Scheme 25. Carbon–Hydrogen Arylation of Inactivated Benzene Derivatives via Aryl Halides and the Proposed Mechanism Reported

Scheme 26. DTBP-Mediated Oxidative Activation of sp^3 C–H Bonds of Nonreactive Alkanes and Addition Reaction to Chromones

furan, thiophene, and naphthalene, also successfully generated the desired compounds in achieving yields between 44% and 85%. In the next step, a series of tetrasubstituted pyrroles **30c** and furans **30d** were smoothly prepared from α -methylene ketones.

2.1.1. Innovative Approaches to Organic Synthesis Using TBHP. The methodologies presented in this study demonstrate innovative approaches to organic synthesis (Figure 1). The use

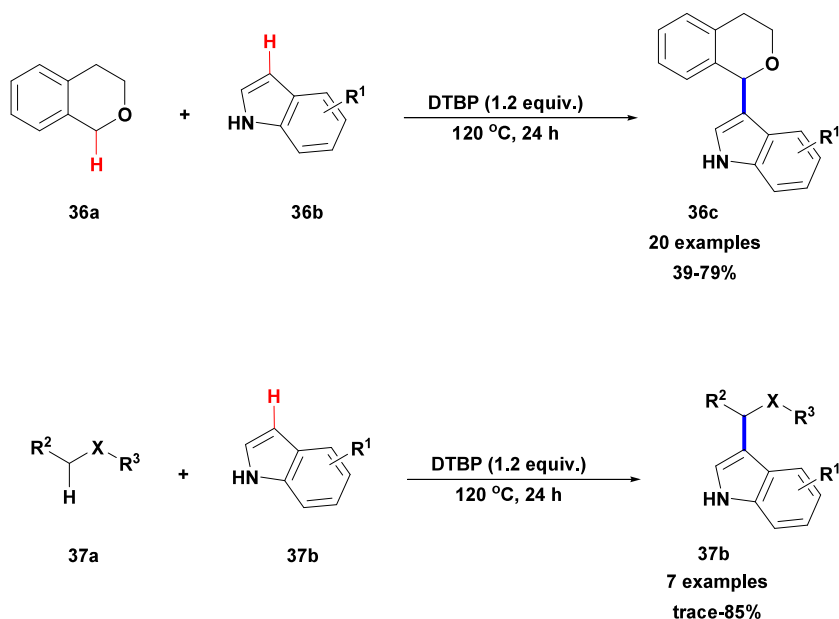
of substrates containing an active α carbon, such as glycines, for carbon–carbon coupling with open-chain and cyclic ethers showcases a robust process enhanced by eosin Y and TBHP. This method improves product yield, making it a valuable addition to synthetic chemistry.⁶⁰ The use of light in photochemistry is energy-efficient and eco-friendly. Eosin Y, a nontoxic, cost-effective dye, effectively promotes chemical transformations and competes with metal-based processes. It

Scheme 27. DTBP-Mediated α -Alkylation of α -Amino Carbonyl Derivatives by Basic AlkanesScheme 28. Control Experiments for α -Alkylation of Amino Compounds and the Proposed Mechanism ReportedScheme 29. Direct Preparation of an α -Aryl- β -alkylated Carbonyl Ketone through a Radical 1,2-Aryl Shift in α,α -Diaryl Allylic Alcohol

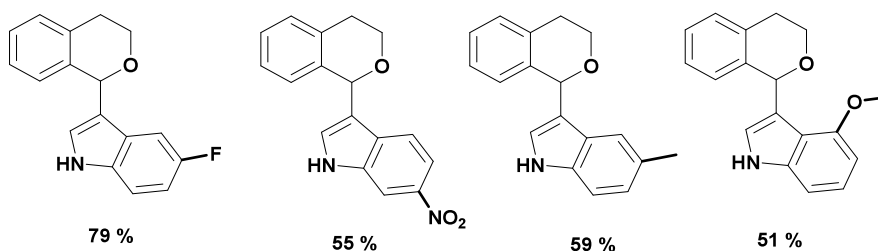
remains a promising green photocatalyst, especially for stereoselective photoredox transformations.⁶³ Furthermore, the reaction between thiazole derivatives and ketones using

iodine (I₂) and TBHP highlights a significant improvement in the carbon-carbon bond formation through Kornblum oxidation and subsequent intramolecular reactions. The

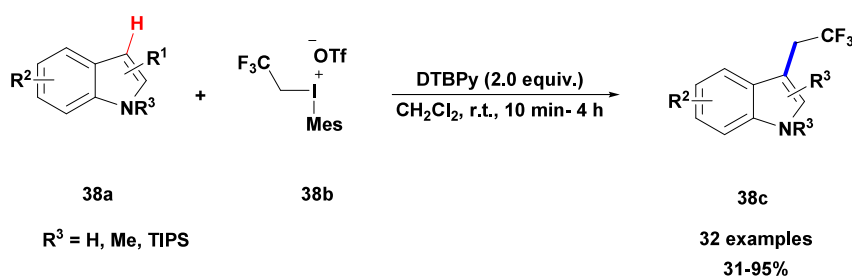
Scheme 30. DTBP-Promoted Direct Coupling of Isochroman and indole



Scheme 31. Scope of Some Indoles with Different Electronic Groups

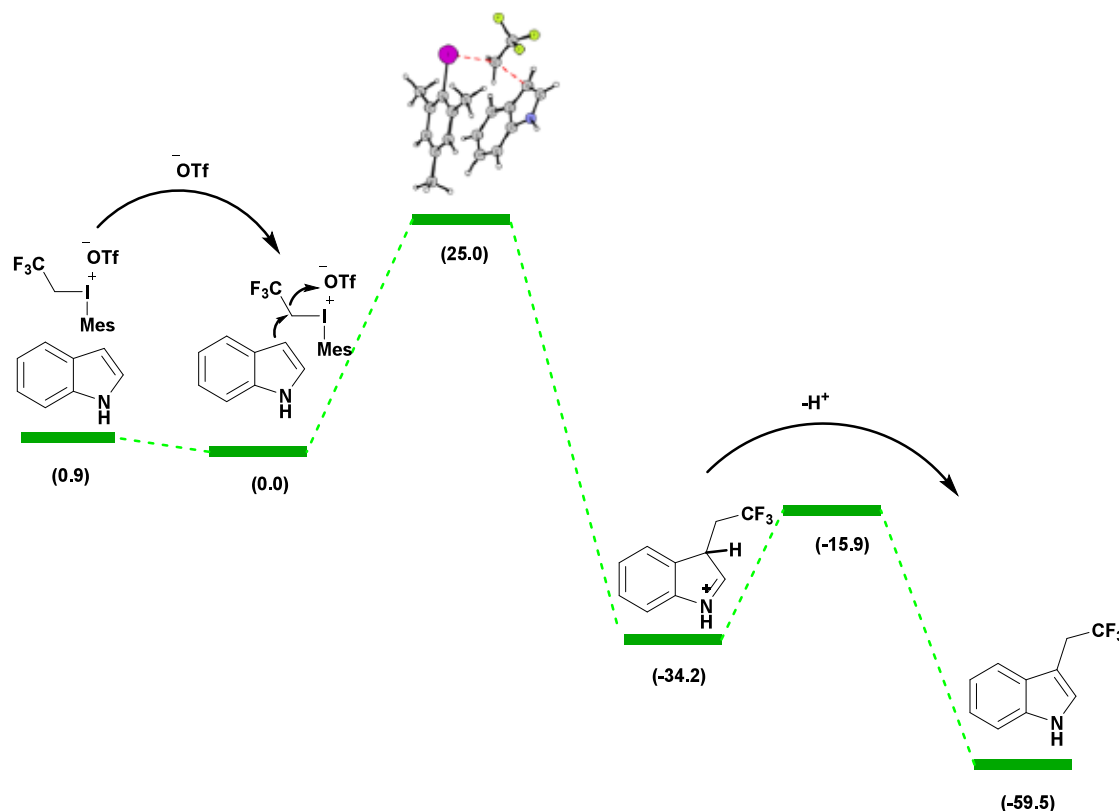


Scheme 32. Trifluoroethylation of Indoles Promoted by DTBPy



efficiency of this method underscores the importance of I_2 and TBHP in facilitating complex transformations.⁵⁵ The I_2 /TBHP system has significantly advanced synthetic conversions for industrial and pharmacological products. It offers easy access to various starting materials and enables efficient, eco-friendly carbon–carbon, carbon–nitrogen, and carbon–sulfur linkage formation and ring-closure reactions. This system is also effective in developing ring-fused systems, including incorporating bioactive fused heterocycles, using accessible materials, making it a vital tool in organic synthesis.^{64,65} The addition of CF_3 groups of enamine derivatives with sodium trifluoromethanesulfonate (Langlois reagent) exemplifies a highly selective and effective approach, outperforming other peroxide-based methods. The reagent's ability to target the electronegative β -carbon of enamines illustrates its potential as a specialized and economical tool in synthetic processes.⁴³ The Langlois reagent

is an efficient trifluoromethylating and fluoroalkylating agent with diverse functionality, a broad substrate scope, and easy handling. It is widely used in CF_3 -incorporated compounds with various applications. However, its preparation involves fluoroalkyl halides, posing an environmental threat and necessitating an alternative route.^{66,67} Finally, the trifluoromethylation of indazole derivatives using the Langlois reagent and TBHP further demonstrates the reagent's utility and effectiveness in synthesizing valuable trifluoromethylated compounds.⁴² Langlois' reagent is widely used for trifluoromethylation, serving as an excellent CF_3 source for difunctionalizing carbon–carbon double and triple bonds. It enables the formation of various functionalities, such as alkenyl, alkyl, carbonyl, and cyano groups, due to its versatile electrophilic, nucleophilic, and radical character.⁶⁸ These methodologies collectively highlight significant advancements

Scheme 33. Energy Diagram in kcal·mol⁻¹ of the Transformation Based on Density Functional Theory Calculation

in organic synthesis, offering efficient, economical, and specialized solutions for various synthetic challenges (Figure 1).

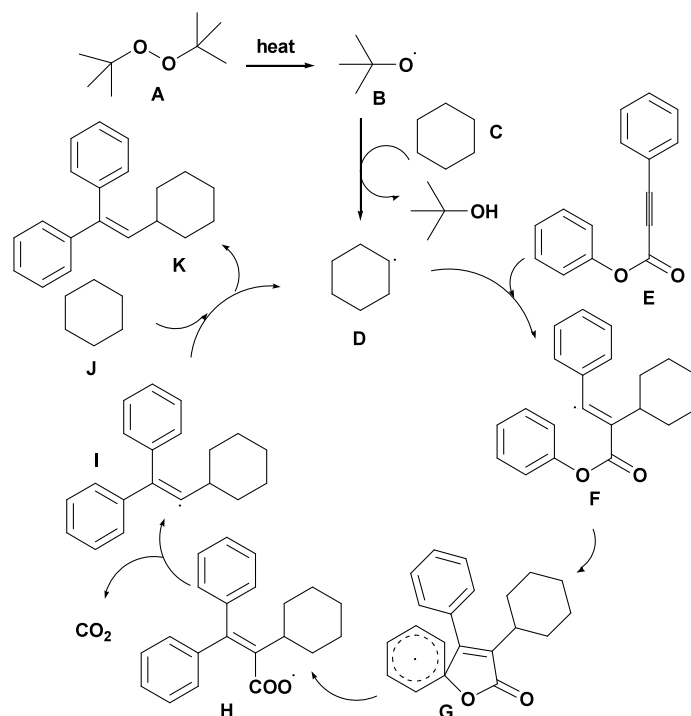
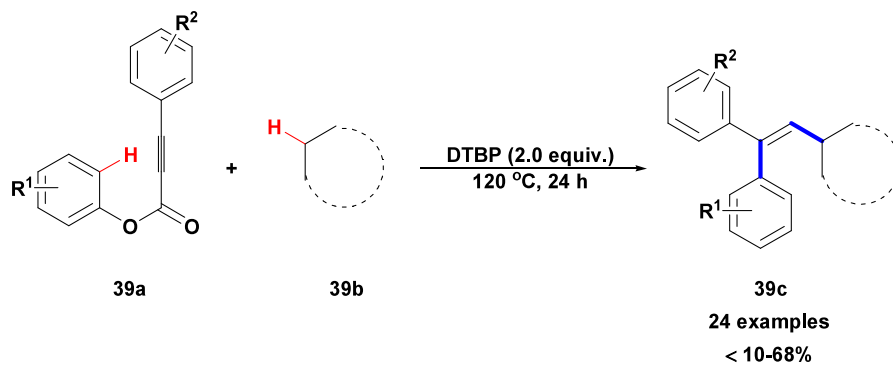
2.2. Coupling Reactions with DTBP. In recent years, efforts to replace transition metals in cross-coupling reactions have led scientists to choose organic peroxides as potential promoters in these syntheses.⁶⁹ DTBP, owing to the bulky *tert*-butyl groups, is one of the most stable peroxides commonly used as a radical initiator in a variety of reactions such as intramolecular addition reactions, fragmentation reactions, and homolytic substitution reactions.⁷⁰ DTBP is a colorless liquid with a half-life of approximately 3 h at 140 °C and 24 h at 120 °C. Heating, as well as UV irradiation, can dissociate DTBP to *tert*-butoxy radicals that can abstract the H atom of the molecules or attack the molecules.⁷¹ In 2014, Yi published a direct attachment of aryl groups of an unreactive aromatic C–H bond **31b** by applying DTBP as an oxidant and ^tBuOK as a base under mild reaction conditions (Scheme 25).⁷² The transformation occurred through radical anion intermediates, and no coupling outcome was achieved without adding oxidants. In this reaction condition, bromobenzene afforded a slightly lower yield, and chlorobenzene yielded no product. The reason seems to be that the homolysis of the aryl carbon–chlorine bond is more challenging than that of the aryl carbon–iodine bond. A possible mechanism described by the authors involves an SET pathway. Initially, radical anion **B** is generated from aryl halide **A** through a single electron transfer process assisted by DTBP and ^tBuOK. Then, **B** is converted into radical **C** and attached to benzene to afford cyclohexadienyl radical **E**. Subsequently, ^tBuOK abstracts a proton from **E** to generate the radical anion **F**. Then, product **G** is

achieved via a radical chain transfer between **F** and **A** and also the regeneration of the radical anion **B**.

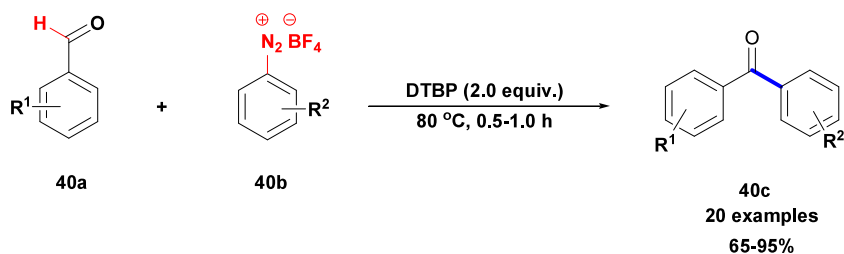
The chromanone framework is found in various bioactive natural substances and medicinal compounds, which exhibit a diverse array of biological actions, featuring antitumor, anticancer, antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antibacterial attributes.^{73–76} Transition-metal-catalyzed alkylation of chromanone derivatives through conjugate addition reactions has been published by various research teams.^{73,77–79} The Han group described oxidative C(sp³)–H bond activation mediated by DTBP of nonreactive alkanes **32b** and conjugate addition involving chromone derivatives **32a** (Scheme 26).⁸⁰ The product **32c** was obtained in 51% yield when 2.0 equiv of DTBP was used. The effectiveness increased by raising the loading of DTBP to 4.0 equiv (72% yield). Other peroxides like H₂O₂, TBHP, TBPB, BPO, and DCP were less effective, and there was no product when oxidants such as K₂S₂O₈, BQ, DDQ, NaClO, and O₂ (1 atm) were used. In their procedure, 2-alkylchromanones were provided in satisfactory to high yields.

Cheng's team developed a cross-dehydrogenative coupling reaction of α -amino carbonyl derivatives **33a** with basic alkanes **33b** followed by α -alkylation of amino compounds **33c** (Scheme 27).⁸¹ Cyclohexane, cyclopentane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, adamantane, and glycine esters demonstrated good reactivity in the reaction. The authors conducted some validation experiments to understand the reaction pathway. During the kinetic isotope effect investigation, the ratio of k_H/k_D for cyclohexane **34b** was found to be 8.3, and the incorporation of TEMPO notably diminished the yield of the product. These results indicated the bond cleavage of the C(sp³)–H was the rate-limiting step, and a radical pathway

Scheme 34. Reaction of Aryl Alkynoates with Cycloalkanes Using DTBP and the Proposed Mechanism Reported



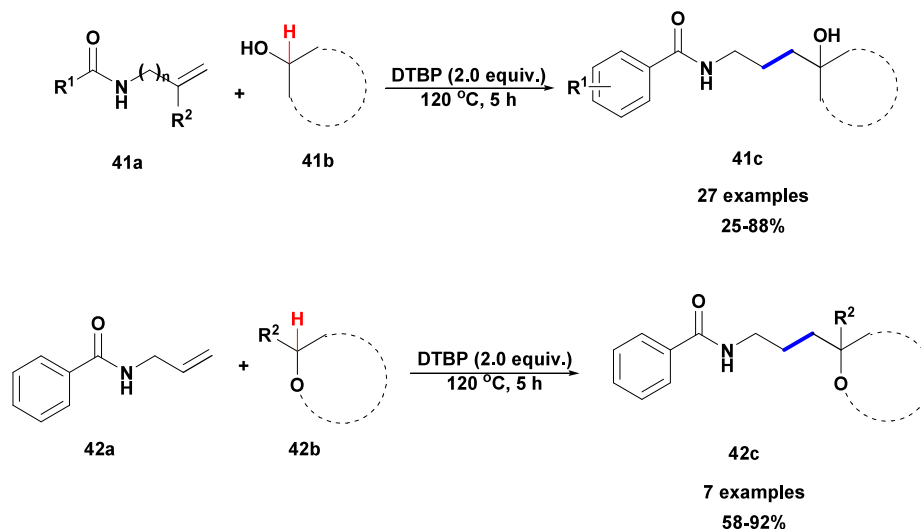
Scheme 35. Preparation of Diaryl Ketone Compounds



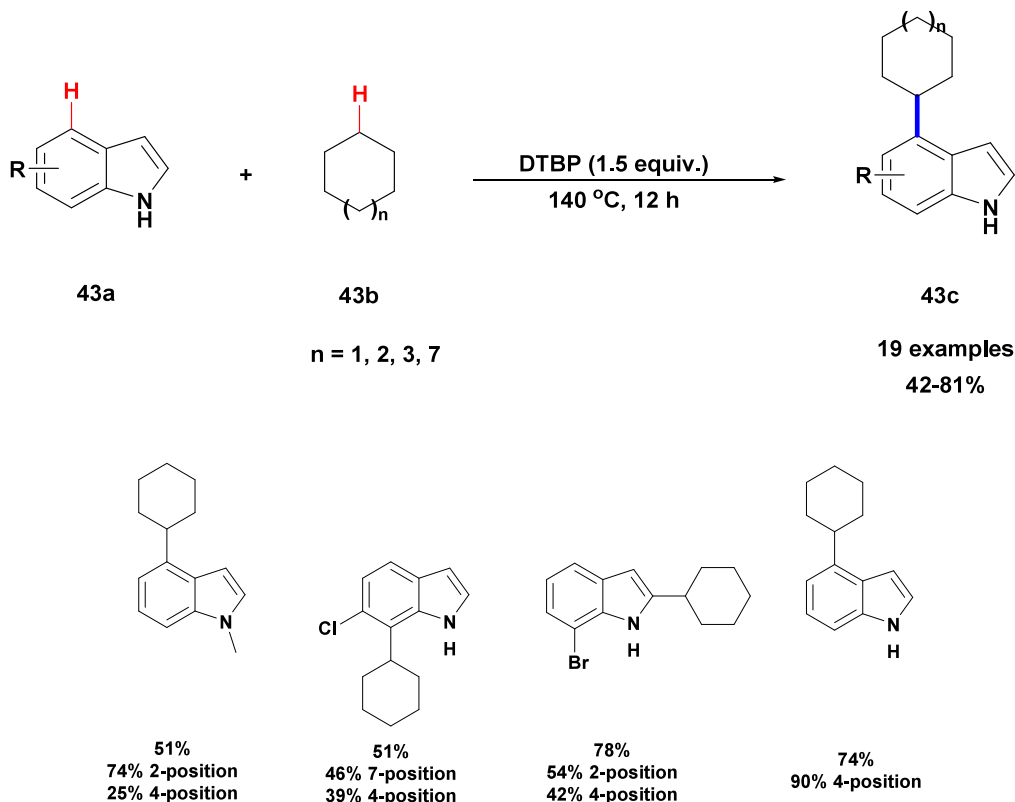
was implicated in the reaction. Hence, the scientists put forward a radical mechanism in which the dissociation of DTBP under heating resulted in the formation of *tert*-butoxy radicals. Then, hydrogen atom abstraction by a *tert*-butoxy radical resulted in a cyclohexyl radical, which was identified as the rate-determining step. On the other hand, α -amino carbonyl produced imine intermediate **B**. Subsequently, a cyclohexyl radical was attached to **B** to create radical intermediate **C**. Finally, the capture of a hydrogen atom by

intermediate **C** led to the creation of the final product **D** (Scheme 28).

Han and colleagues reported the direct synthesis of α -aryl- β -alkylated carbonyl ketones **35c** through radical alkylation of symmetrical and unsymmetrical α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols **35a** with basic alkanes **35b** (Scheme 29).⁸² Direct $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ activation and 1,2-aryl shift in α,α -diaryl allylic alcohol derivatives resulted in the creation of $\text{C}(\text{Ar})\text{--C}(\text{sp}^3)$ and $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--C}(\text{sp}^3)$ in a single step. It is noteworthy that selective transfer of the two distinct aryl groups occurred in this

Scheme 36. Direct Synthesis of α,ω -Amino Alcohols Promoted by DTBP

Scheme 37. DTBP-Mediated Coupling Reaction of Indole Compounds with Cyclic Alkanes



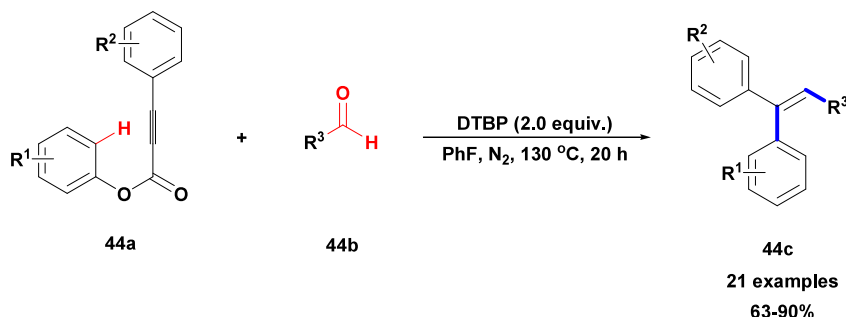
transformation. They developed a DTBP-promoted radical addition reaction of olefins with alcohols and ether compounds, forming new $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--}\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)$ bonds without metal catalysts or light. This process, which functionalizes $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--}\text{H}$ bonds, produces α,ω -amino alcohols directly from olefins and exhibits a wide range of substrates and high yields, enriching metal-free radical addition reactions.

Cai and colleagues documented the formation of $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--}\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)$ bonds between isochroman compound **36a** and indole derivatives **36b**. Several cyclic ethers were achieved in reasonable yields, utilizing DTBP as the only oxidant in the absence of solvents (Scheme 30). Indoles with electron-

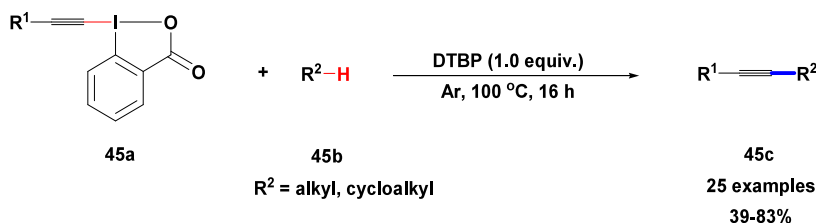
withdrawing and electron-neutral groups exhibited good yields. However, electron-donor groups showed somewhat reduced yields relative to the electron-poor indoles. Under the conditions, no substituents on the 1- and 2-positions of indoles had a remarkable effect on the reaction. By contrast, the electronic properties of substituents situated at the 6- and 7-positions played a minor role in yields (Scheme 31).⁸³

Novák and co-workers reported specific trifluoroethylation at the C3 position of unprotected indoles **38c** using 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl(mesityl)-iodonium triflate **38b** in the presence of 2,6-di-*tert*-butylpyridine or DTBPy at room temperature (Scheme 32).⁸⁴ Electron-rich alkyl and alkoxy indoles **38a**

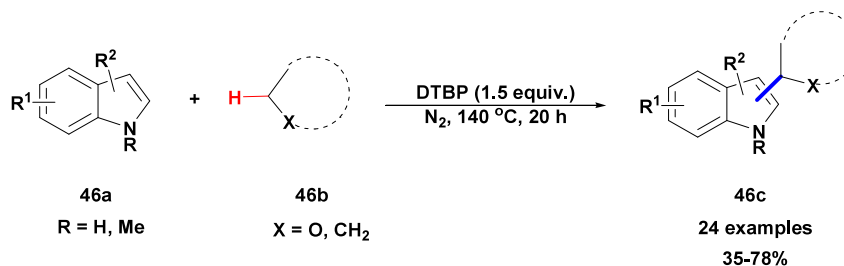
Scheme 38. DTBP-Mediated Decarbonylative Alkylation/Arylation of Alkyne Esters with Aldehyde Compounds



Scheme 39. DTBP-Mediated Alkynylation of Alkanes with Ethynylbenziodoxolones



Scheme 40. Oxidative Cross-Coupling of Indole Compounds with Ether Compounds or Cycloalkanes



exhibited good to excellent yields, while electron-deficient ones afforded a lower efficiency. The authors used DFT calculations to study the mechanism and selectivity. The separation of the triflate ion was demonstrated to be energy-releasing (-0.9 kcal·mol⁻¹). Hence, the slowest step was the attachment of a trifluoromethyl group to the indole nucleus. In the subsequent step, deprotonation of the σ -complex by the base occurred with a barrier of 18.3 kcal·mol⁻¹. Both steps were highly energy-releasing, indicating one-way changes. Activation energy levels for all of the reactants were computed. The reaction pathway was excluded based on the prohibitively high barrier (52 kcal·mol⁻¹) for constructing the key intermediate from 1 and 2 (Scheme 33).

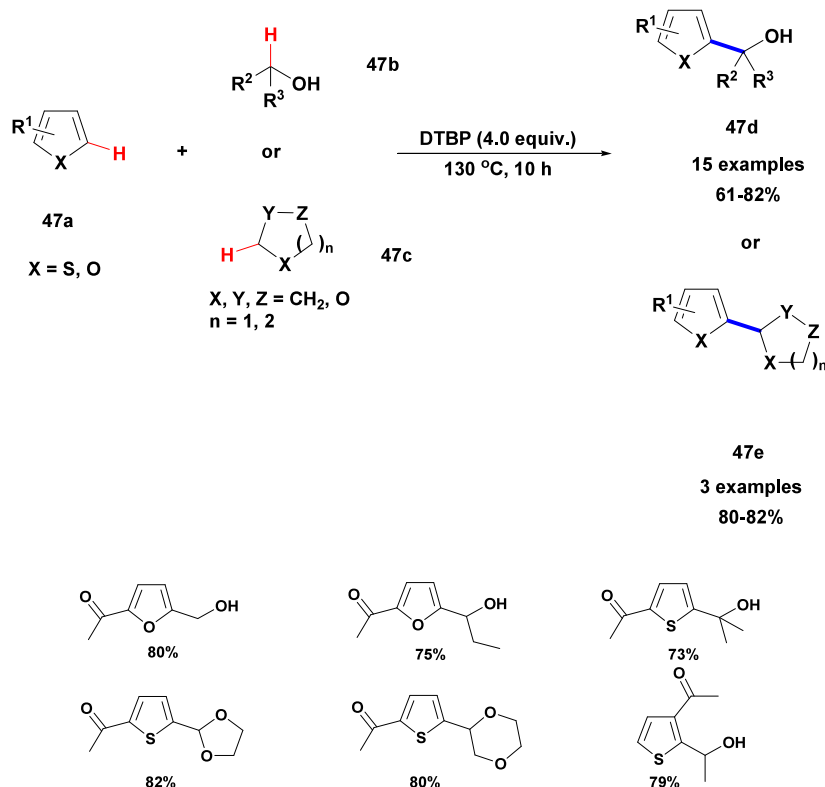
The same research group described another type of alkylation and migration in the decarboxylative arylation reaction on alkynoates (Scheme 34).⁸⁵ A radical cascade difunctionalization reaction of aromatic alkynoates 39a proceeded through a consecutive reaction comprising breaking of the C(sp³)-H bond of cyclic alkanes 39b, alkylation of the C-C triple bond in 39a, 1,4-shift of the aryl group, and removal of a carboxyl group. According to the proposed mechanism by the authors, *tert*-butoxy radical intermediate **B** is formed through homolysis of DTBP under heating. H atom removal of cyclohexane compound **C** by a *tert*-butoxy radical forms cyclohexane radical species **D**, which reacts with the C-C triple bond of alkyne esters to afford species **F**. Then, **F** undergoes ipso ring closure to form spiro compound **G**. The

following shift of the aryl group on the ester moiety forms carboxyl radical species **H**, which undergoes the decarboxylation reaction with the release of the CO₂ to furnish species **I**. Finally, H atom removal of **J** by **I** creates the desired products **K** and **D**.

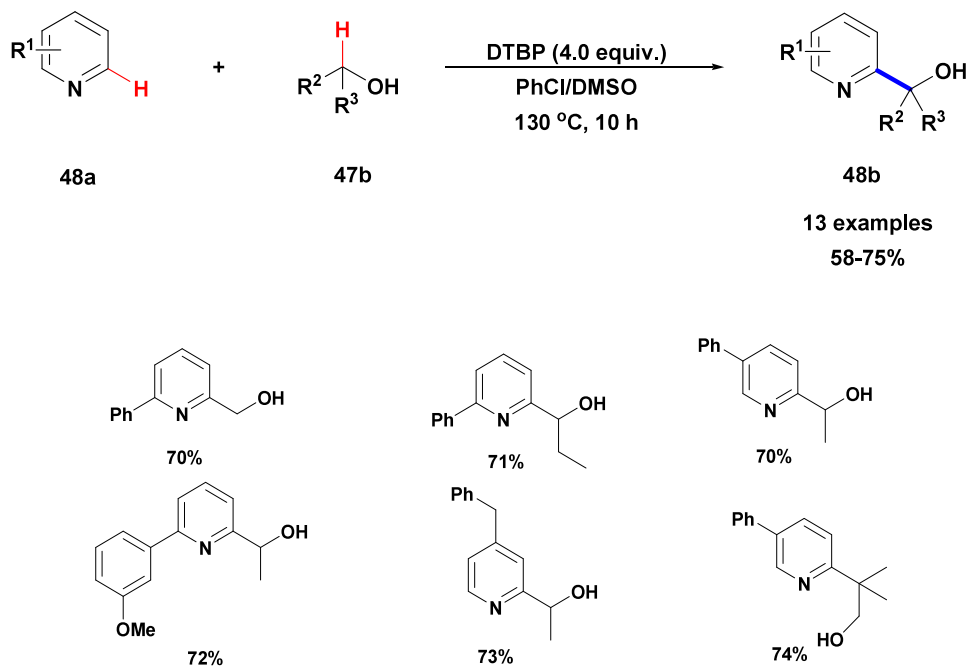
Yadav et al. reported DTBP-promoted cross-coupling of aromatic aldehyde compounds 40a with aryldiazonium tetrafluoroborates 40b to access diaryl ketones 40c under metal-free conditions (Scheme 35).⁸⁶ They developed an efficient one-pot method for synthesizing diaryl ketone compounds via a metal-free coupling reaction of aromatic aldehyde compounds and aryldiazonium tetrafluoroborates, using DTBP as a radical starter. This represents the first example of creating diaryl ketone compounds from aromatic aldehyde compounds through a radical-radical coupling reaction, offering new applications for DTBP in metal-free reactions and offering a substitute to the Friedel-Crafts acylation.

The Han group described metal-free radical addition of primary and secondary hydroxyl compounds 41b or ethers 42b with *N*-allylbenzamides 41a/42a employing DTBP as the sole oxidant in the reaction (Scheme 36).⁸² Creation of a new carbon-carbon bond from functionalization of a C(sp³)-H bond using a radical addition cascade process resulted in straightforward synthesis of α,ω -amino alcohols 41c/42c from easily available olefins. It provides a wide range of substrates

Scheme 41. DTBP-Promoted Hydroxyalkylation of Heterocycle Compounds with Alcohols and Cyclic Ether Compounds



Scheme 42. DTBP-Promoted Hydroxyalkylation of Pyridines with Alcohols



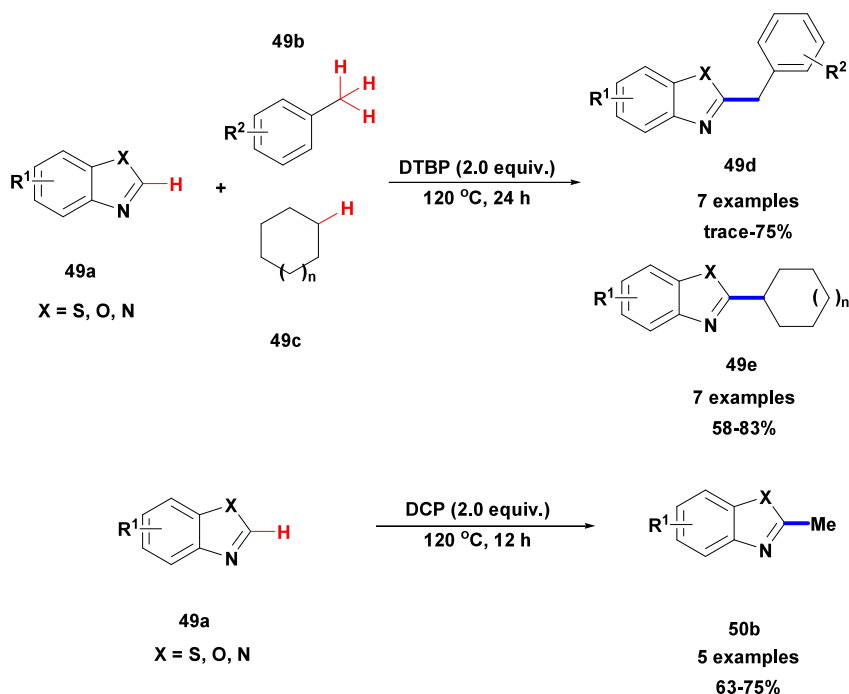
and favorable yields, enhancing the scope of radical addition under metal-free conditions.

Direct functionalization of indoles often occurs at the 2- or 3-position.^{87–89} In 2016, Yi reported C4-regioselective oxidative alkylation of unprotected indoles **43a** with cycloalkanes **43b** using DTBP as the sole oxidant in the reaction for the first time.⁹⁰ Various indoles bearing substituents at different positions underwent this functionalization at 2-, 4-,

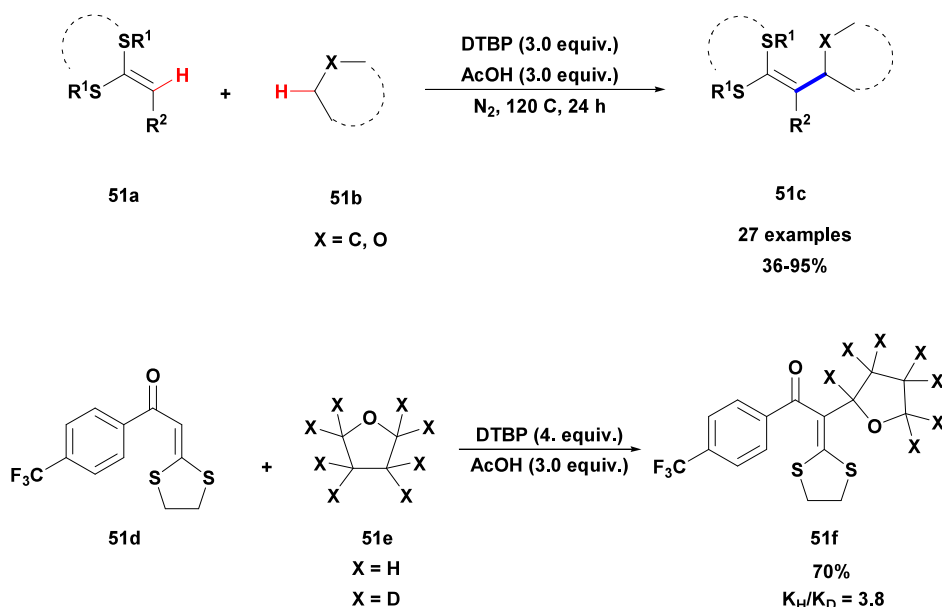
and 7-positions with moderate to high regioselectivity (Scheme 37).

In 2016, Pan and Yu reported decarbonylative alkylation via 1,4-shift of the aryl group and removal of a carboxyl group of diaryl alkyne esters **44a** with aliphatic aldehydes **44b** as an inexpensive and plentiful alkyl radical source in the presence of DTBP (Scheme 38).⁹¹ A large number of trisubstituted alkenes **44c** in reasonable to good yields were produced. They

Scheme 43. C–H Alkylation of Azoles Using DTBP and DCP



Scheme 44. Metal-Free C–H Alkylation of Ketene Dithioacetals and KIE Experiment

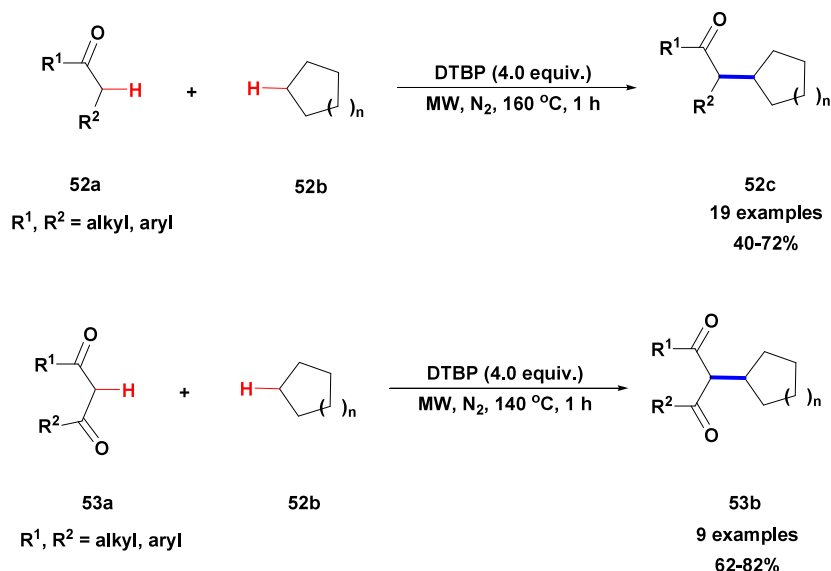


designed a metal-free approach for the oxidative decarbonylative alkylation of diaryl alkyne esters with aliphatic aldehydes, producing trisubstituted olefins in good to moderate yields. The process includes the removal of a carbonyl group, radical addition, 1,4-shift of the aryl group, and removal of a carboxyl group, all performed in a single pot. This approach efficiently and economically synthesizes 1,1-diaryl-2-alkyl ethylene compounds using aliphatic aldehyde compounds.

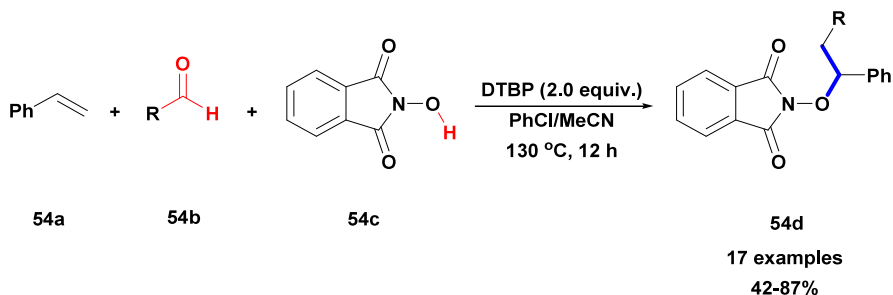
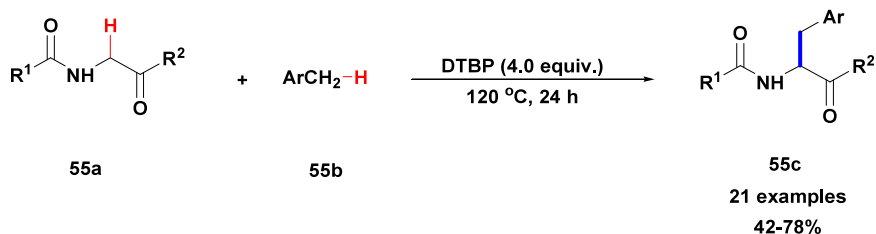
Xu and co-workers described direct radical formation of a C(sp³)–C(sp) bond between inactivated saturated alkanes **45b** and hypervalent iodine alkynyl reagents like ethynylbenziodoxolones **45a** using DTBP (Scheme 39).⁹² In a large-scale

experiment using cyclohexane as the alkyl reagent, coupling product **45c** was achieved with a good yield of 73%. This process was effective with various saturated hydrocarbons and hypervalent iodine alkynyl reagents, offering an efficient way to synthesize alkyl-substituted alkynes under gentle, metal-free conditions.

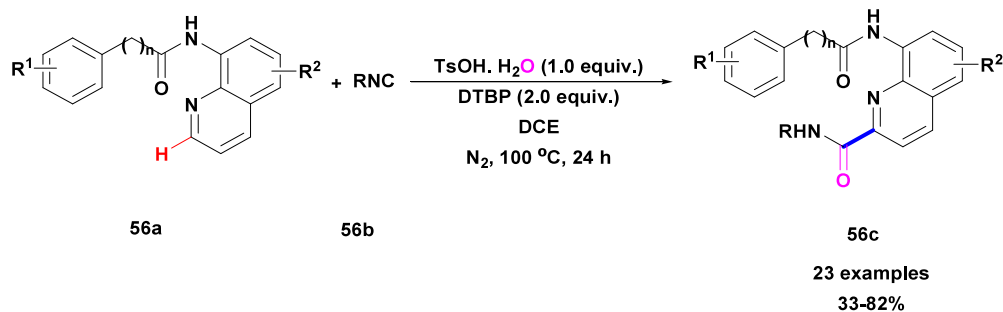
Kwong's research team developed a transition-metal-free cross-dehydrogenative bond (CDC) formation. Using di-*tert*-butyl peroxide, they effectively coupled indoles with cyclic ethers and cycloalkanes, resulting in satisfactory yields. C2 and C3 functionalization of indoles has received significant attention from chemists in the organic synthesis field. Direct cross-coupling of unprotected indoles **46a** with cyclic ether

Scheme 45. α -Alkylation of Ketones and 1,3-Diketones Using CDC Reaction

Scheme 46. Oxidative Decarbonylative Alkylation–Aminoxidation

Scheme 47. Selective Direct Benzylation of *N*-Acyl-2-aminoacetophenone Compounds with Toluene-Based Compounds

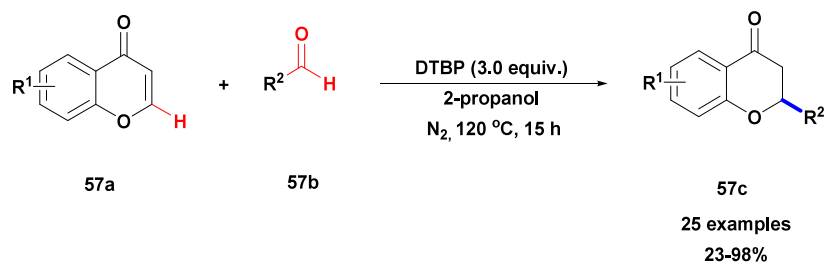
Scheme 48. selective metal-free C2–H amidation of 8-amidoquinoline compounds



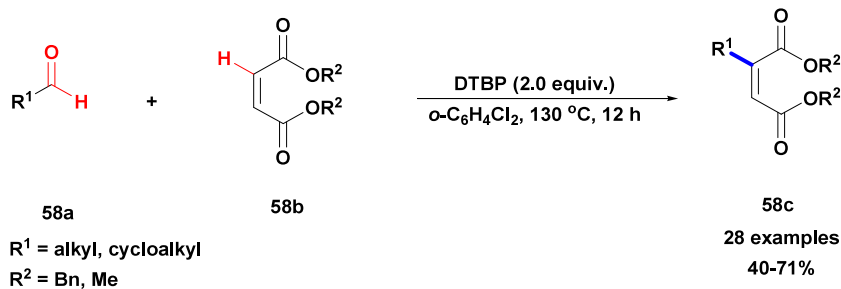
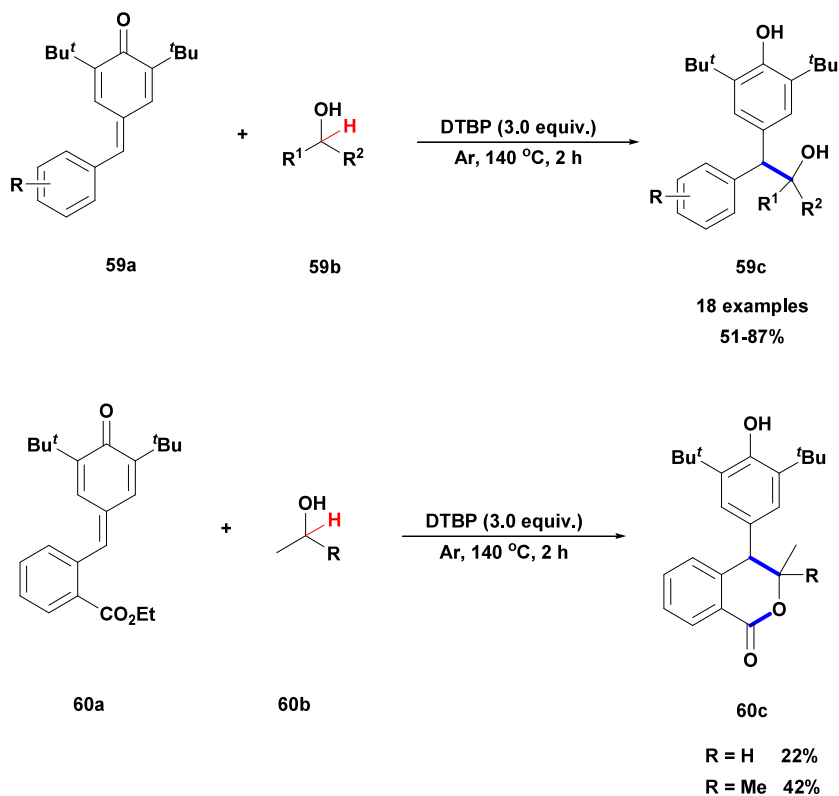
compounds **46b** or cyclic alkanes using only DTBP as an oxidant in the reaction was performed (Scheme 40).⁹³ The product **46c** in the presence of 1.5 equiv of TBPB was also obtained in satisfactory yield (45%).

Kianmehr's research team described a straightforward metal-free CDC reaction between neutral heterocycles **47a** with alcohols and cyclic ether compounds **47b/47c** (Scheme 41).⁹⁴ In their protocol, heterocycles such as thiophene, furan, and

Scheme 49. DTBP-Promoted Alkylation of Chromone Compounds Employing Aliphatic Aldehyde Compounds



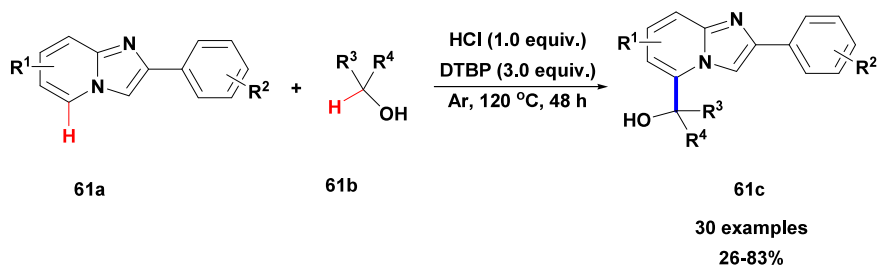
Scheme 50. DTBP-Mediated Alkylation of Electron-Deficient Alkenes Using Aliphatic Aldehydes

Scheme 51. DTBP-Mediated α -Alkylation of Alcohols with Paraquinone Methide Compounds

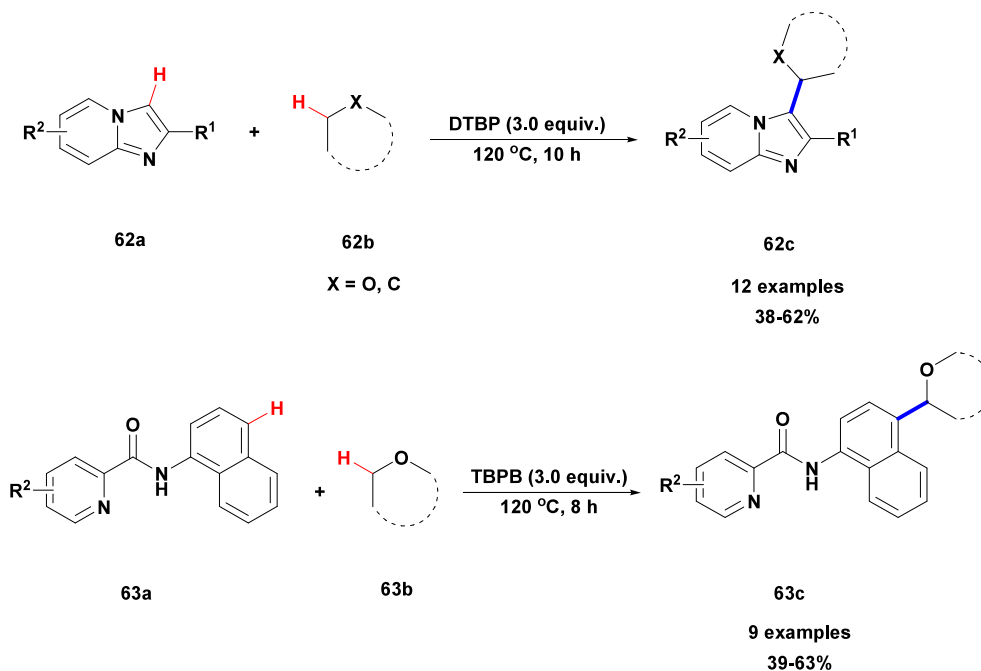
pyridine **48a** with first and secondary alcohol **47b** and also cyclic ethers reacted with satisfactory efficiency (Scheme 42). They developed a simple and effective approach for the straightforward C-2 alkylation of nonbasic nitrogen-free and basic nitrogen-containing heterocycles employing different alcohols and cyclic ether compounds. This metal- and acid-free process, using DTBP, yields the desired products in moderate to high yields.

Cai's research team described C–H alkylation and benzoylation of azoles, like benzothiazoles, benzoxazoles, and benzimidazoles **49a**, with cycloalkanes **49c** or methylarenes **49b** using DTBP as the oxidant and also methylation of these heteroarenes with dicumyl peroxide (DCP) as the methylation agent (Scheme 43).⁹⁵ They developed an efficient, metal-free method for synthesizing 2-substituted azoles via C–H activation. The process involves reacting benzothiazole, benzoxazole, and benzimidazole compounds with dicumyl

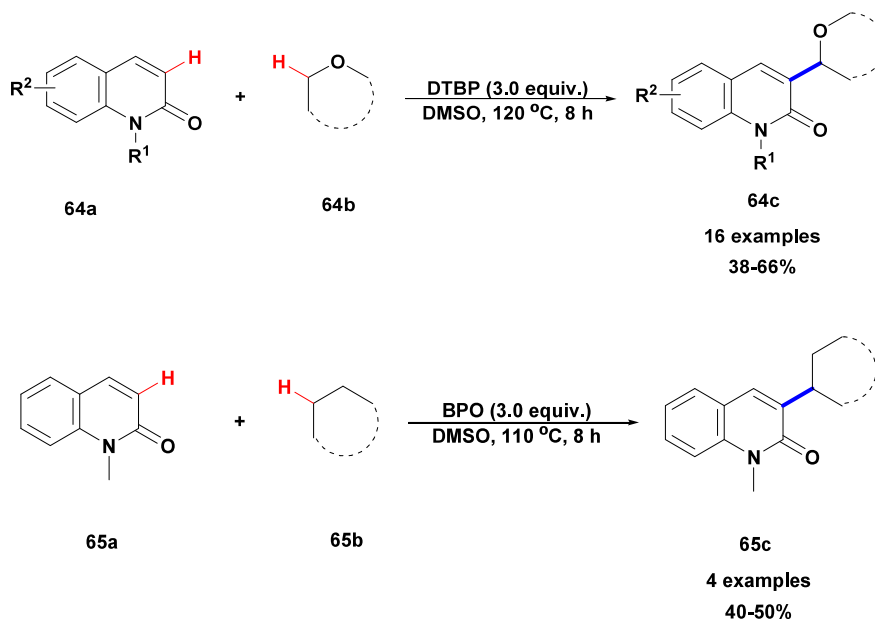
Scheme 52. C-5 Hydroxyalkylation of Imidazopyridines with Alcohols



Scheme 53. Oxidative Cross-Coupling of Imidazopyridines and 1-Naphthylamines with Cycloalkanes and Cyclic Ethers

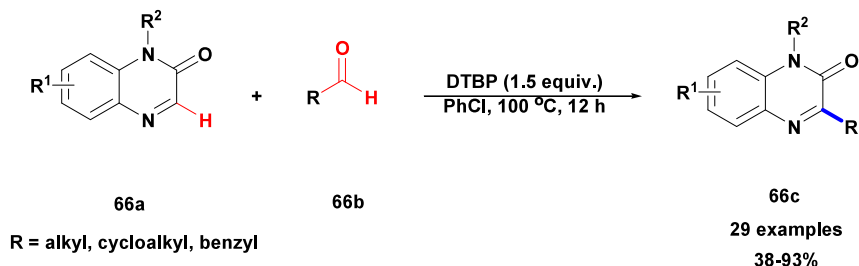


Scheme 54. Oxidative Cross-Coupling of Imidazopyridines and 1-Naphthylamines with Cycloalkanes and Cyclic Ethers

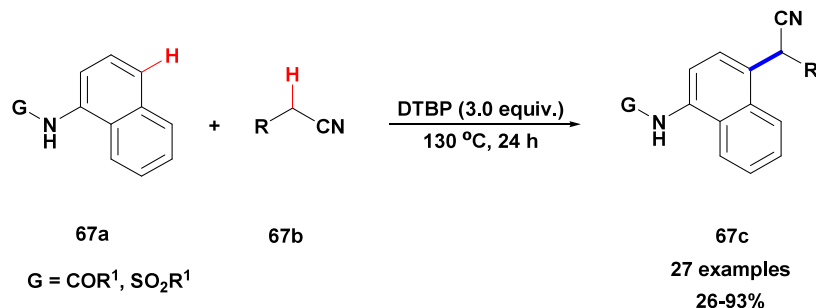


peroxide, methyl-substituted arenes, and cyclic alkanes using DTBP or DCP at 120 °C, resulting in good yields.

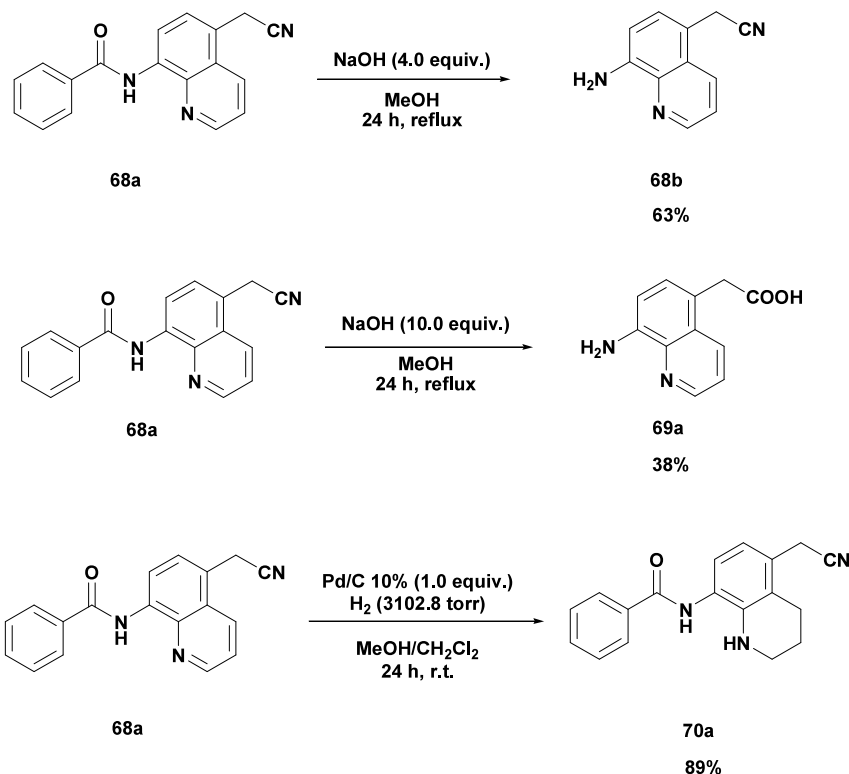
After a while, another C–H alkylation was reported by the Lei group. Their new protocol involved cross-dehydrogenative

Scheme 55. DTBP-Promoted Direct Alkylation of Quinoxaline-2(1*H*)-ones

Scheme 56. DTBP-Promoted C-5 Cyanoalkylation of 8-Aminoquinolineamides/Sulfonamides with Alkyl Nitriles



Scheme 57. Conversion of Cyanoalkylated Aminoquinolineamides into Other Products



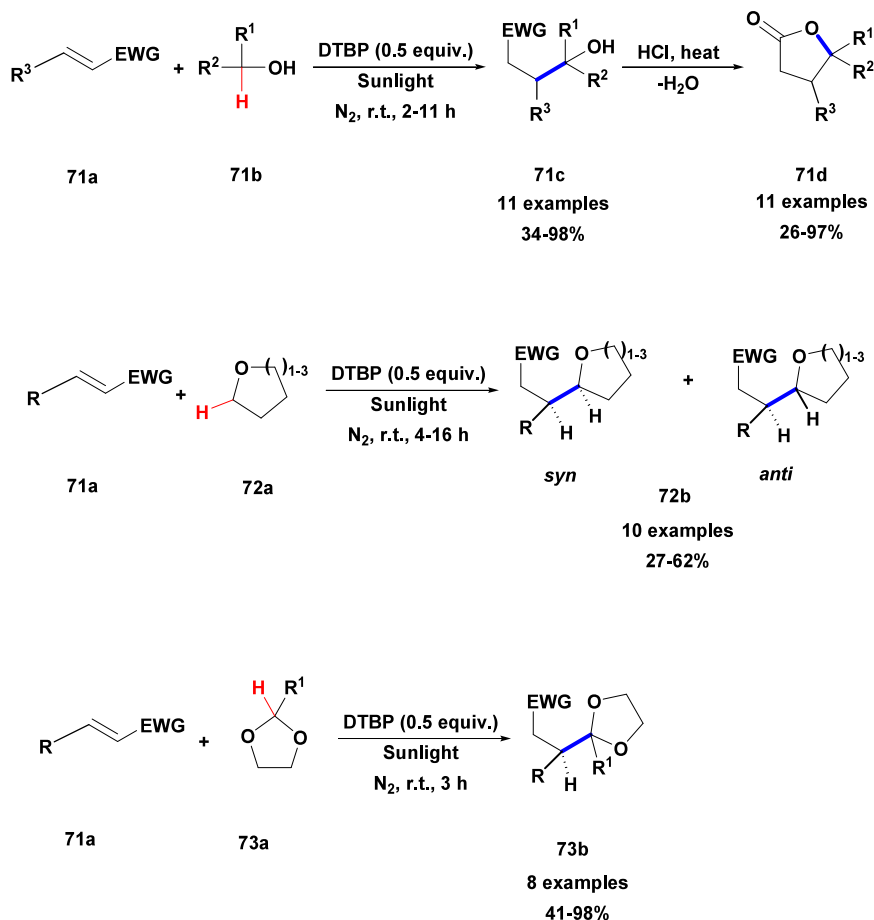
coupling between ketene dithioacetals **51a** with simple alkanes, cycloalkanes, or cyclic ethers **51b** under metal-free conditions with DTBP serving as the oxidant in acetic acid as the solvent (Scheme 44).⁹⁶ Kinetic investigation of one of the derivatives showed $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = 3.8$, which demonstrated that the C–H bond breaking occurred in the rate-limiting step.

Zhang and Fan introduced metal-free α -alkylation of ketone derivatives **52a** with cycloalkanes **52b** via CDC reaction using DTBP under microwave irradiation for 1 h (Scheme 45).⁹⁷

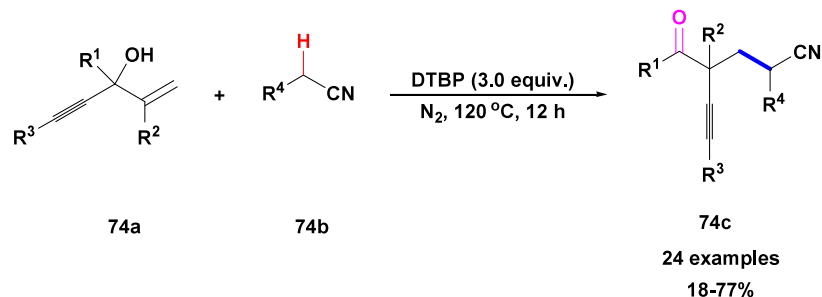
Under microwave heating, DTBP-initiated formation of α -ketone carbon **53a** and cycloalkyl radical **52b** results in the formation of coupling product **53b**. However, the homocoupling products were also observed in lower yields.

Yang's team introduced an unprecedented cascade three-component decarbonylative alkylation/aminooxidation of styrene **54a** with different aliphatic aldehyde compounds **54b** and *N*-hydroxyphthalimide (NHPI) **54c** in the absence of metals (Scheme 46).⁹⁸ The process advanced via the conversion of α -

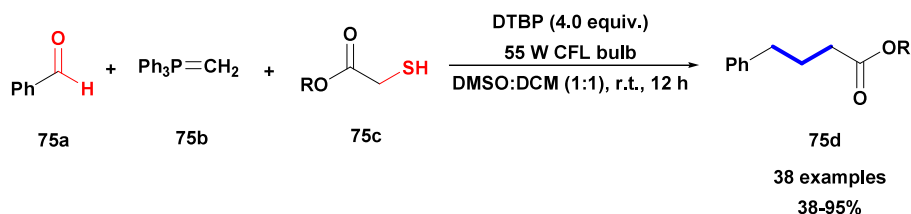
Scheme 58. Sunlight-Induced C–C Bond Formation between Alcohols, Ethers, Acetals, and Olefins



Scheme 59. Cyanoalkylation/Alkynylation of Allylic Alcohol



Scheme 60. Visible-Light-Induced Nonmetal Sequential Wittig/Hydroalkylation Process

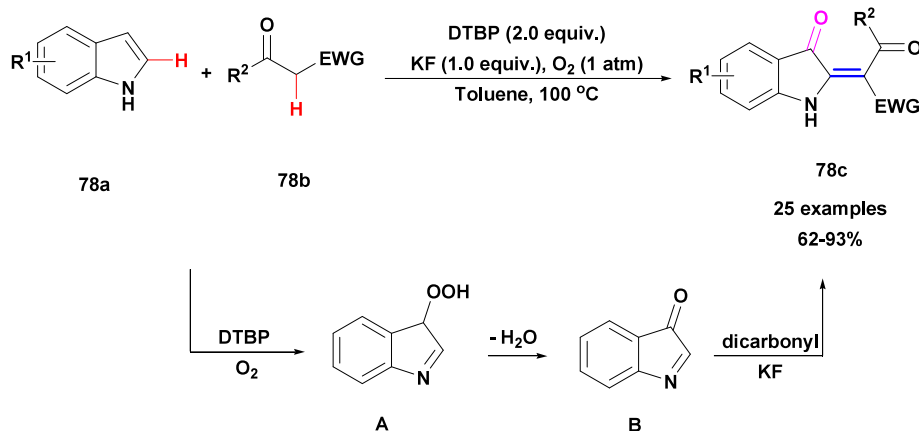


monosubstituted and α -disubstituted aliphatic aldehyde compounds into secondary and tertiary alkyl radicals for the sequential formation of $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--}\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)$ and $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--}\text{O}$ bonds.

Straightforward functionalization of the carbon–hydrogen bond adjacent to the nitrogen atom in an amide has garnered notable attention in recent times.⁹⁹ Yu's research team introduced a method for selective direct benzylation of *N*-

acyl-2-aminoacetophenones **55a** with toluene derivatives **55b** employing DTBP as the sole oxidant (Scheme 47).¹⁰⁰ Different toluene derivatives with electron-donating and -withdrawing groups were effectively tolerated in this oxidative system. Amides with a methyl group on different positions of the benzoyl group did not show any steric hindrance with the benzylating agents.

Scheme 62. Oxidative Ketonization/Olefination of Indoles by Cross-Coupling Reactions with 1,3-Dicarbonyl Compounds



Scheme 63. Oxidative Alkylation/Alkynylation of Terminal Alkenes through Aliphatic Aldehyde Decarbonylation and 1,2-Alkynyl Shift

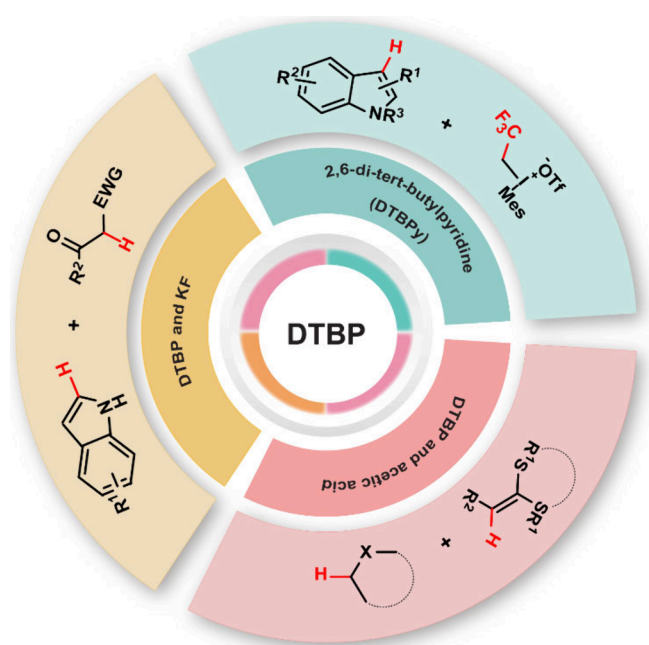
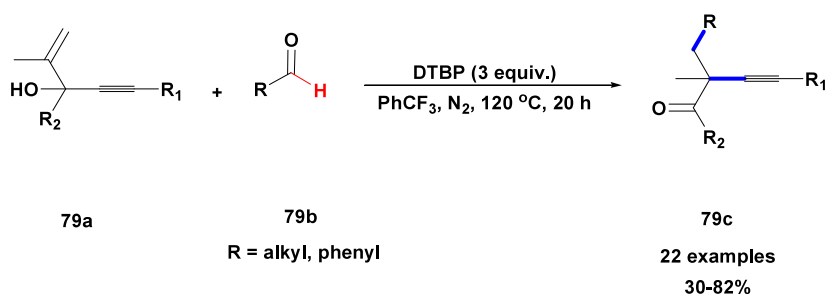


Figure 2. Suitable reagents for various types of coupling reactions with DTBP.

protocol yields a range of 8-quinoline-2-carboxamide compounds in fair to good yields, highlighting its practical utility.

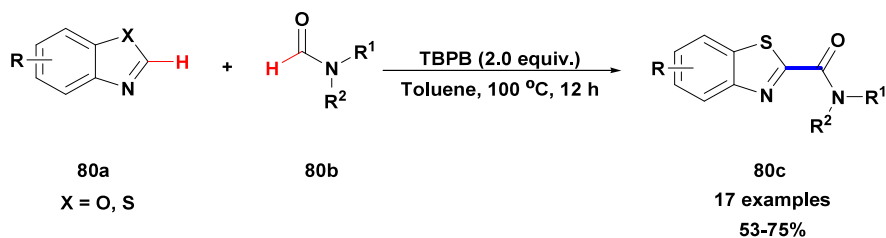
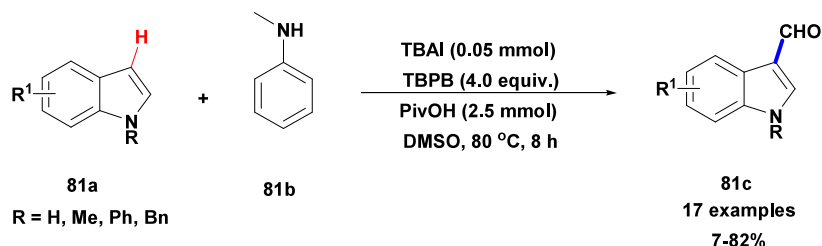
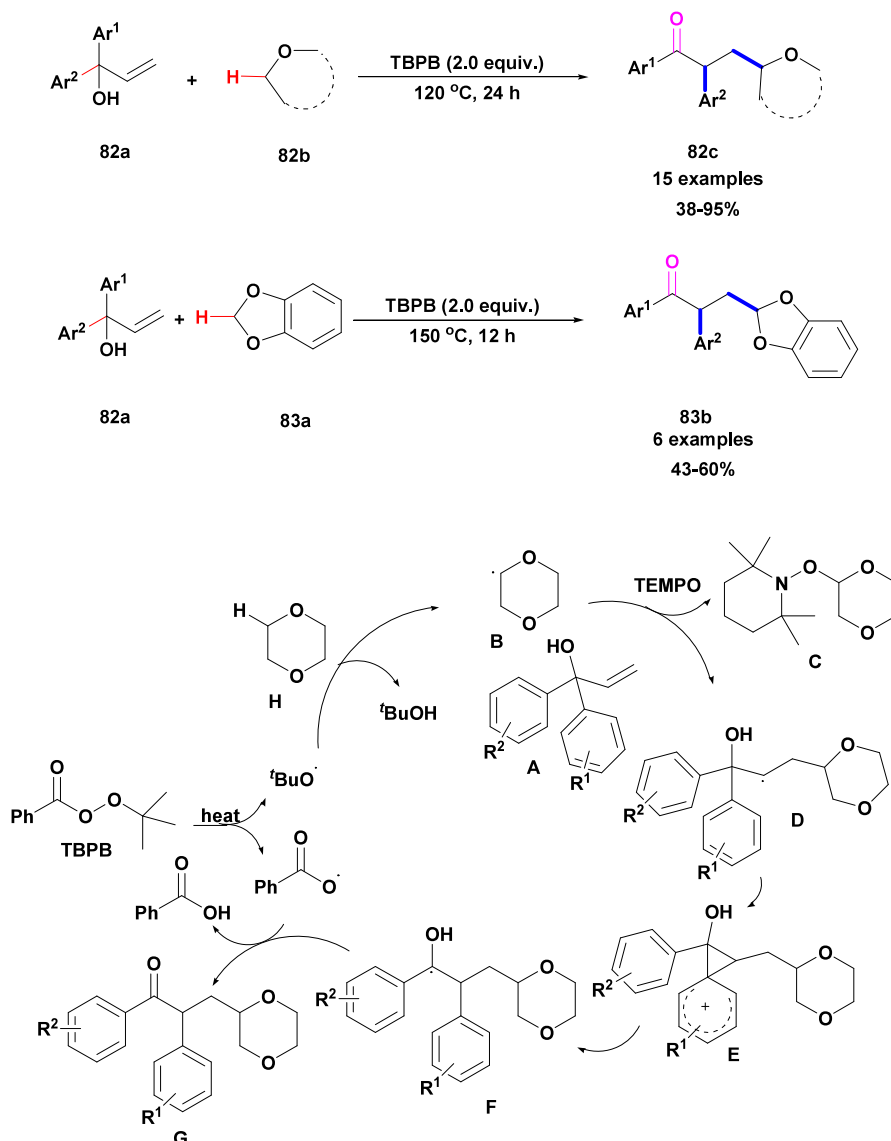
Upon heating, DTBP can generate an acyl radical from aliphatic aldehydes **57b**. Subsequently, through the removal of CO, the resulting alkyl radical attacks the C-2 position of chromones **57a**, leading to the formation of alkylated products

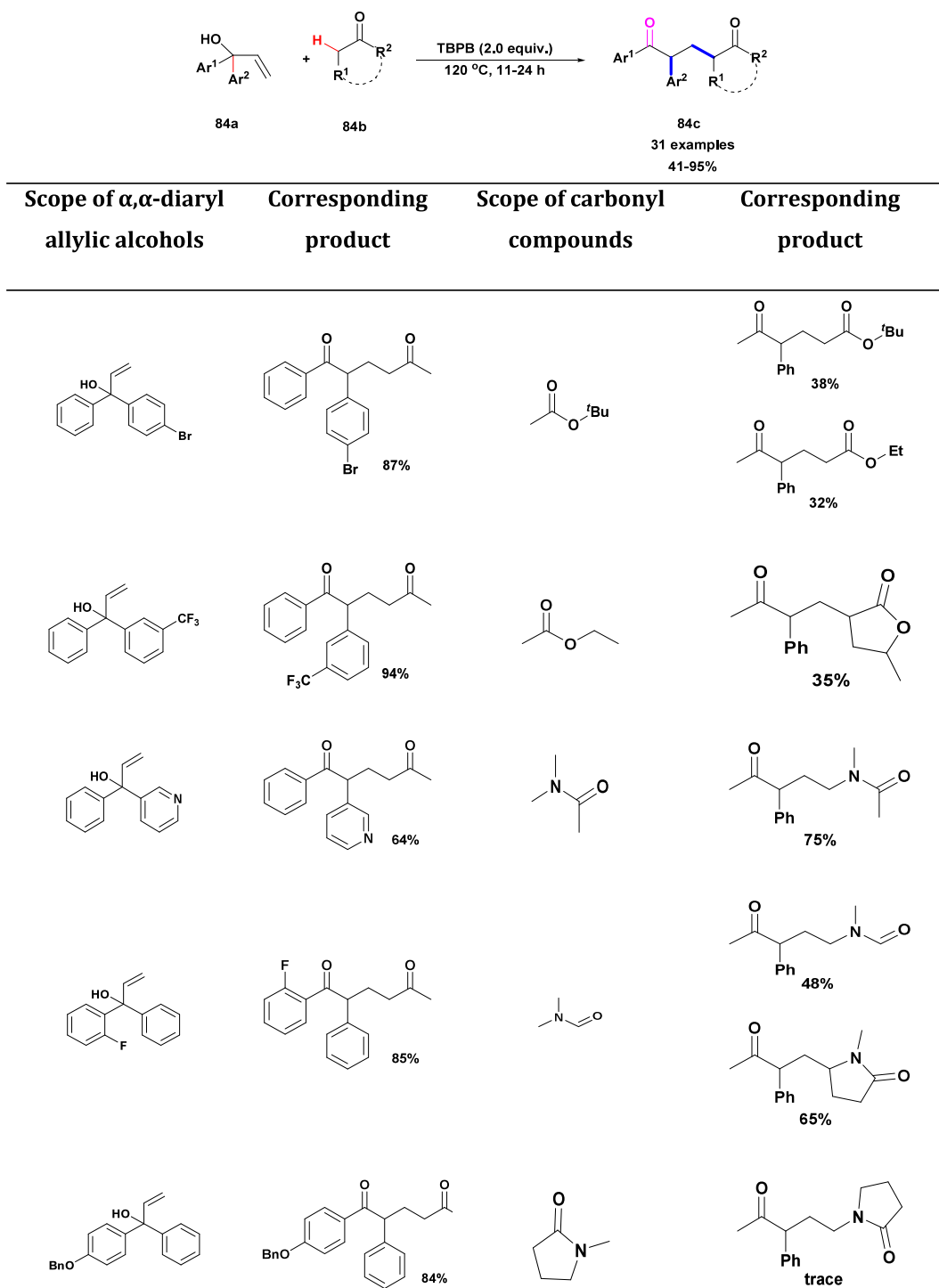
57c (Scheme 49).¹⁰² In summary, this method represents an oxidative decarbonylation and alkylation of chromone compounds using aliphatic aldehyde compounds as alkylation agents through radical-based conjugate addition without metals. Tertiary, secondary, and primary alkyl aldehyde compounds have been shown to be effective alkyl radical donors, producing the respective 2-alkylated chromanones in fair to excellent yields. Additionally, preparation of the racemate of the natural product flindersiachromanone was effectively accomplished under the standard conditions. This approach serves as an efficient tool for the alkylation and late-stage modification of chromone-related bioactive compounds.

At the same time, another approach was developed for C–H alkylation employing aliphatic aldehyde **58a** as the alkylation agents. This alkylation was performed on the electron-poor alkene compounds **58b** utilizing DTBP as an oxidant and radical starter (Scheme 50).¹⁰³ The conversion of easily accessible α -unsubstituted, α -monosubstituted, and α -disubstituted aliphatic aldehydes **58a** into primary, secondary, and tertiary alkyl radicals for the radical conjugate addition was observed in the transformation.

The Cui team described a CDC reaction between the α -carbon of alcohols and C–H olefin of *para*-quinone methides using DTBP as a radical starter (Scheme 51).¹⁰⁴ In the presence of DTBP, the alcohols were converted to α -oxy radicals, which then attached to *para*-quinone methide compounds to form phenol-containing alcohols and dihydroisocoumarins. Synthesis of two dihydroisocoumarin compounds **60c** in optimized reaction conditions was also successful. This metal-free α -alkylation of alcohols with *para*-quinone methide compounds to obtain phenol-containing alcohols and dihydroisocoumarin compounds represents a

Scheme 64. Direct Amidation of Azoles Facilitated by TBPB in the Presence of Formamides

Scheme 65. $^n\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$ -Catalyzed C3-Formylation of Indoles Using *N*-MethylanilineScheme 66. TBPB-Facilitated Alkylation of α,α -Diaryl Allylic Alcohols with Basic Ethers, Along with the Proposed Mechanism

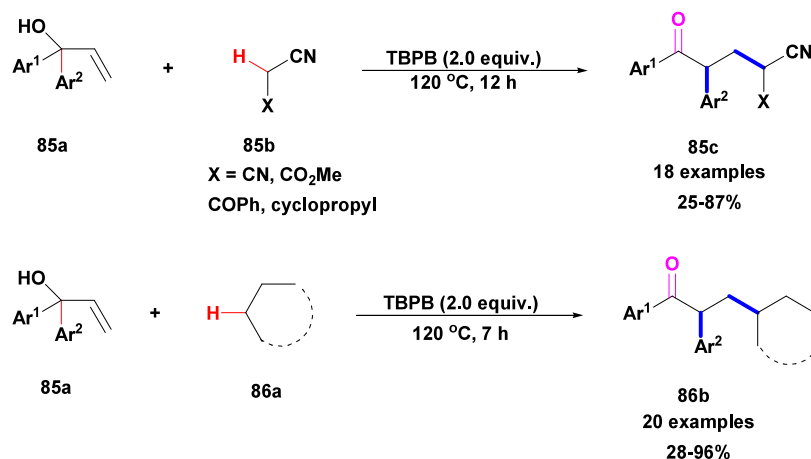
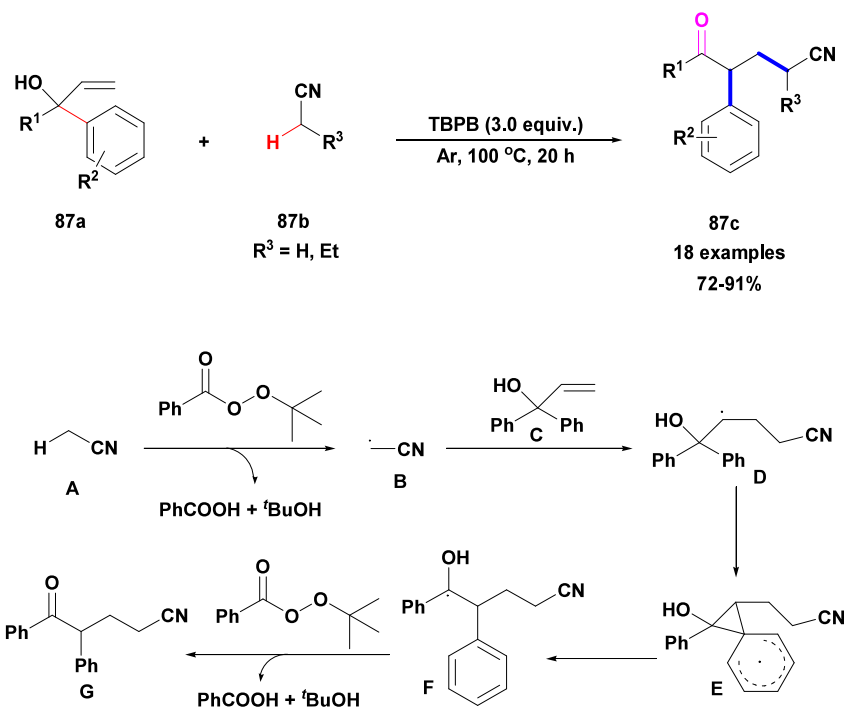
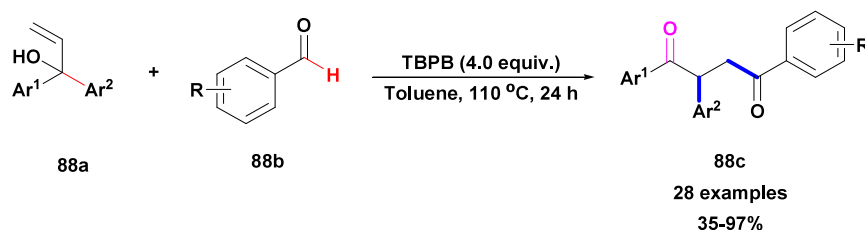
Scheme 67. Alkylation of α,α -Diaryl Allylic Alcohols with Carbonyl Compounds Facilitated by TBPB

straightforward $C(sp^3)-C(sp^3)$ bond formation and extends the scope of radical addition reactions involving *para*-quinone methides.

Various studies have investigated the coupling reactions of imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines **61a** having a substituent on the C-3 position of the heterocycle ring. In 2019, Lin and Yan et al. introduced a new approach to C-5 regioselective hydroxyalkylation of imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines **61a** with simple alcohols **61b** using DTBP (Scheme 52).¹⁰⁵ The procedure had good compatibility with electron-attracting and -releasing

groups on the aromatic ring of the 2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines.

In 2020, Guo et al. described a metal-free oxidative cross-coupling of imidazopyridines **62a** or 1-naphthylamines **63a** with cycloalkanes **62b** or cyclic ethers **63b** using peroxides (Scheme 53).¹⁰⁶ In their protocol, 3-alkyl-imidazopyridine **62c** and 4-alkyl-1-naphthylamine derivatives **63c** were isolated in moderate to good yields. This innovative, catalyst- and additive-free approach enables the synthesis of derivatives of 3-alkyl-imidazopyridine and 4-alkyl-1-naphthylamine under gentle conditions. The process demonstrates excellent func-

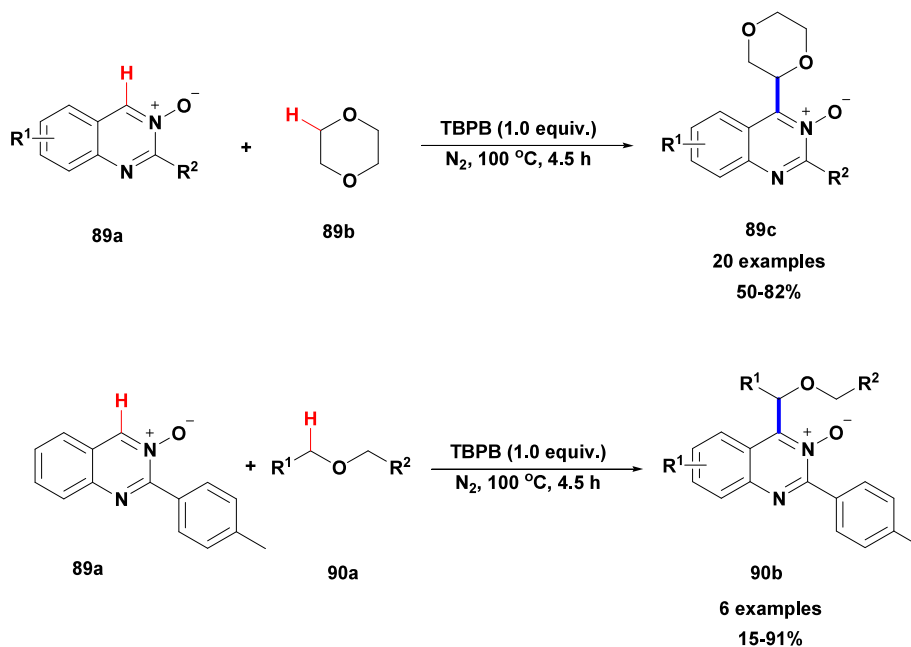
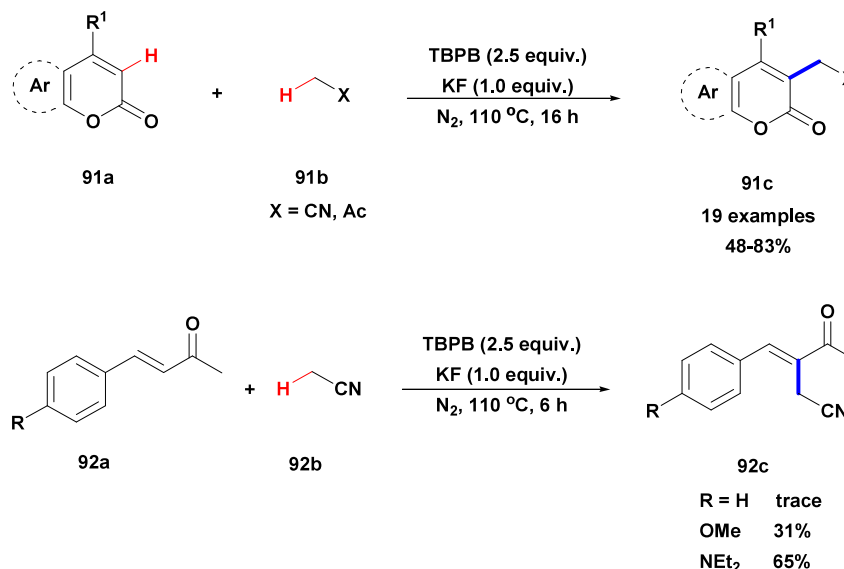
Scheme 68. TBPB-Mediated Cyanomethylation and Alkylation of α,α -Diaryl Allylic AlcoholsScheme 69. 1,2-Alkylarylation of Alkenes with α -C(sp³)-H Bonds from Acetonitriles and the Proposed MechanismScheme 70. Cross-Coupling of α,α -Diarylallylic Alcohols and Aromatic Aldehydes Facilitated by TBPB

tional group compatibility, offering an efficient method for synthesizing imidazopyridine and 1-naphthylamine compounds with significant usefulness in medicinal compounds and functional materials.

Han and et al. described an additional example of an oxidative coupling process between biologically active quinolinone compounds **64a** with ethers **64b** or cycloalkanes **65b** in the presence of peroxides (Scheme 54).¹⁰⁷ 3-

Alkylquinolinones **64c/65c** were prepared in this transformation. They developed an innovative DTBP-assisted radical CDC reaction of quinoline derivatives with ether compounds, enabling the preparation of various 3-alkylquinolinones under gentle conditions, without requiring transition metals. The approach demonstrates a diverse substrate range and great effectiveness, offering an appealing pathway for synthesizing quinolinone structures with significant utility in

Scheme 71. TBPB-Initiated Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling of Quinazoline-3-oxides with 1,4-Dioxane

Scheme 72. Oxidative Cross-Coupling of Coumarins and α,β -Unsaturated Ketones with Acetonitrile and Acetone

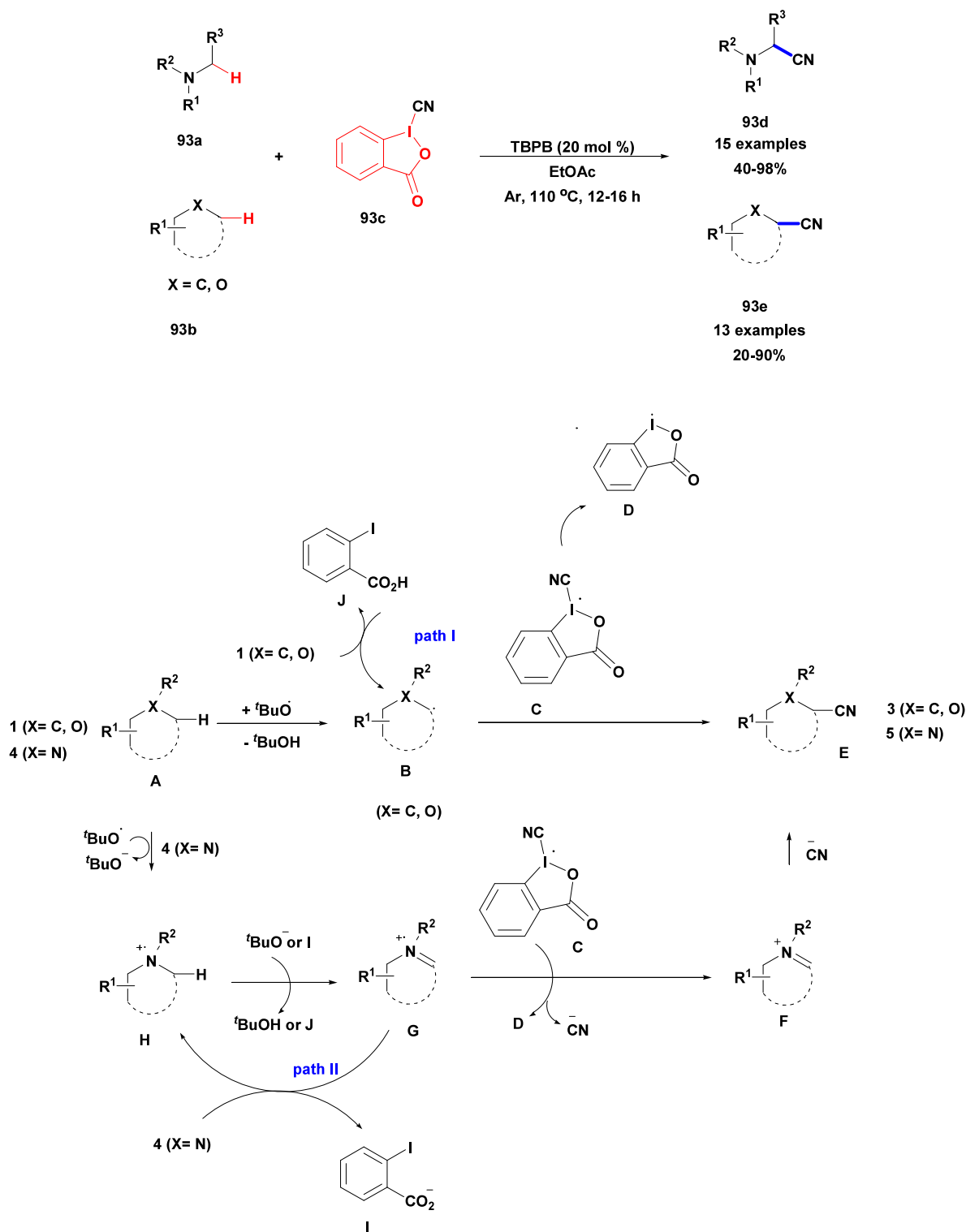
drugs and functional materials. Overall, the direct CDC method offers step-saving, atom-economical, and eco-friendly benefits.

The Yao and Lin group created a method for the metal-free carbon removal and alkylation of quinoxaline-2(1*H*)-one compounds **66a** with aliphatic aldehyde compounds **66b**, utilizing di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (DTBP) as a promoter (Scheme 55).¹⁰⁸ Other peroxides, including TBHP, *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide; H₂O₂, hydrogen peroxide; DCP, dicumyl peroxide; and CHP, cumene hydroperoxide, were less effective in the coupling process. The use of metal catalysts, such as Ni(CH₃COO)₂·4H₂O, Mn(OAc)₃·2H₂O, Mn(OAc)₂·4H₂O, and Mn(OAc)₂ resulted in lower yields. Compared with previous methods, this system demonstrates excellent compatibility with quinoxaline-2(1*H*)-one compounds, irrespective of whether the substituents on the nitrogen-containing ring and

benzene ring are electron-accepting or electron-releasing groups. This procedure is expected to serve as a valuable approach for quinoxaline-2(1*H*)-one derivatization.

Kianmehr and his team described C5-cyanoalkylation of 8-aminoquinolineamides/sulfonamides **67a** with alkyl nitriles **67b** using DTBP exclusively (Scheme 56).¹⁰⁹ Various aryl, heteroaryl, and alkyl amides and sulfonamides as well as simple alkyl nitriles, especially acetonitrile as the simplest cyanomethylated reagent, were tolerated well in this kind of cross-coupling reaction. Transformation also resulted in the expected products with good efficiency in the presence of other H-active reagents such as acetone and nitromethane. Kinetic isotope effect experiments conducted on solvent revealed that the C(sp³)–H bond breaking of CH₃CN was the slowest step. In the next step, the conversion of cyanoalkylated aminoquinolineamides **67c** into other products was investigated.

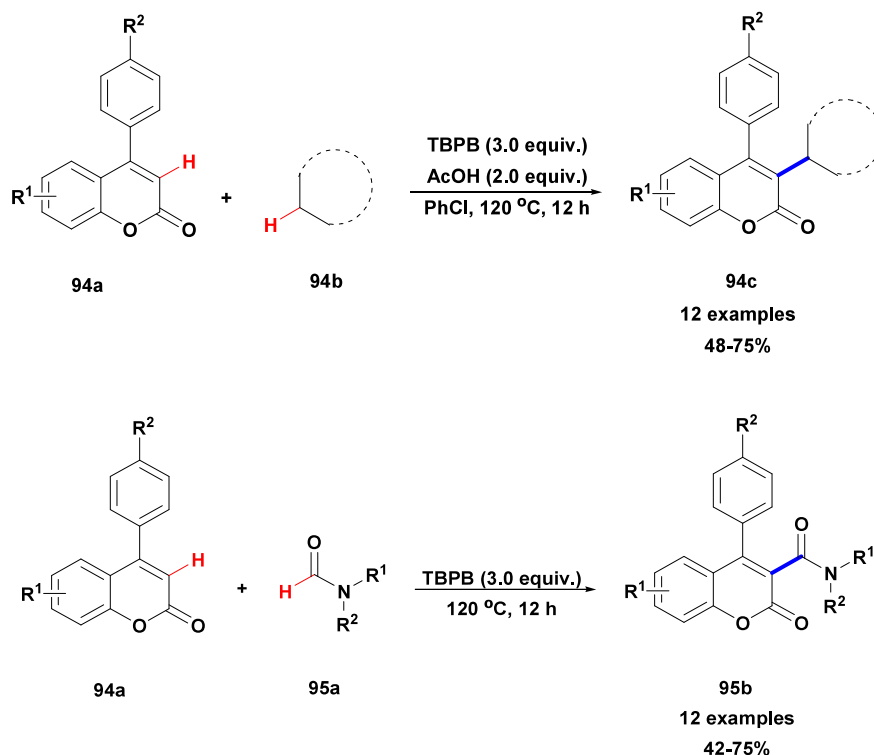
Scheme 73. Cyanation of Tertiary Amines, Alkanes, and Ethers and the Tentative Mechanism



The aroyl moiety was easily removed through hydrolysis to produce 2-(8-aminoquinolin-5-yl) acetonitrile **68b** (63% yield). Further basic hydrolysis converted the cyano group to a carboxylic acid group **69a** (38% yield). Also, the 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline **70a** scaffold was prepared from the reduction reaction of the pyridine ring in the presence of 10% Pd/C under H_2 gas (89% yield) (Scheme 57).

Ouchi and his team showed a sunlight-induced, DTBP-mediated C–C bond formation between alcohols, ethers, or acetals (**71b**, **72a**, **73a**) and olefins **71a** (Scheme 58).¹¹⁰ The reaction was efficiently completed within 3–4 h of sunlight irradiation at room temperature. The study also explored the addition of cyclic ethers or cyclic acetals to olefins under sunlight photolysis. The authors noted that yields of the products (**71c**, **71d**, **72b**, **73b**) exceeded those achieved using

Scheme 74. TBPB-Facilitated C-3 Functionalization of Coumarins



a Xe lamp, which could be attributed to the intensity of sunlight. The reactions proceeded more rapidly and with comparable or better yields than those of many previously reported methods using sunlight and conventional lamp photolysis. Furthermore, gram-quantity experiments were conducted to test the practicality of this reaction in organic synthesis, demonstrating the method's efficiency and scalability.

In the difunctionalization of α -aryl α -alkynyl allylic alcohol compounds **74a** with alkyl nitrile compounds **74b** mediated by DTBP as the sole oxidant, two key transformations, including $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ bond breaking of alkyl nitrile compounds and radical 3-exo-dig cyclization followed by 1,2-alkynyl radical migration occurred. These transformations allowed for the synthesis of numerous α -alkynyl γ -cyano functionalized ketones **74c** (Scheme 59).¹¹¹ When peroxides like TBHP, TBPB, DCP, and BPO were utilized instead of DTBP, the respective products were achieved in reduced yields.

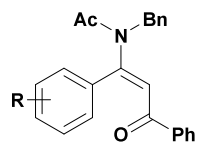
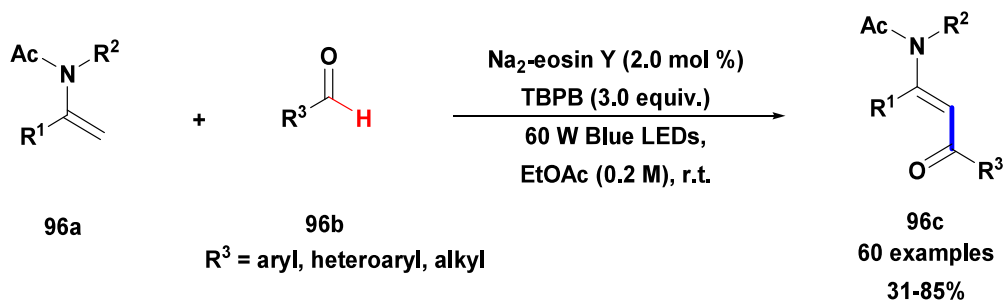
Sun and his team described an approach for a cascade Wittig/hydroalkylation procedure using aldehydes **75a**, ylides **75b**, and ethyl 2-mercaptoesters **75c** (Scheme 60).¹¹² The saturated C3-homologation products **75d** were obtained in the presence of DTBP as the alkoxyl radical mediator for hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) under visible-light irradiation. This innovative cascade Wittig/hydroalkylation process is initiated by visible light exposure, representing an eco-friendly and metal-free radical method that operates under gentle conditions and is suitable for different functional groups. This method provides direct access to saturated C3 homologation products from aldehydes or ketones via radical hydroalkylation to olefins.

Quinoxalins make up a significant group of *N*-heterocycles that act as c-met kinase inhibitors, histamine-4 receptor antagonists, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, antitumors,

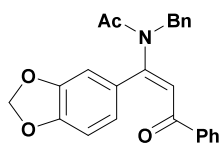
and antidiabetic agents. Roy et al. developed transition nonmetal functionalization of quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one derivatives **76a** with cycloalkanes, cyclic ethers, or alkyl arenes **76b**/**77b** as coupling partners (Scheme 61).¹¹³ Many substrates like quinolines, isoquinolines, quinazoline, benzothiazole, and phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine **76c** afforded coupling products in good yield. This protocol shows excellent compatibility and selectivity for various functional groups and allows selective functionalization of strong C–H bonds in adamantane. Its practical applications include accessing bioactive pharmaceuticals.

The Jin group synthesized 3-carbonyl-2-ene-indole compounds **78c** from ketonization and olefin formation of indoles **78a** by coupling reactions with 1,3-dicarbonyls **78b** where DTBP worked as an oxidant and KF as a base (Scheme 62).¹¹⁴ The reaction proceeded through the creation of intermediate indol-3-one **B** with DTBP and O_2 , which had a significant role in this transformation. This innovative, metal-free oxidative ketonization/olefination method facilitates the creation of 3-carbonyl-2-ene-indole compounds. The reaction advances effectively without requiring metal catalysts or additives, providing quick access to a range of 3-carbonyl-2-ene-indole derivatives in medium to high yields.

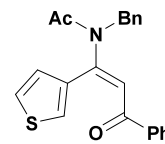
Xiang et al. described oxidative alkene alkylation and alkynylation of 1,4-enyn-3-ols **79a** with tertiary, secondary, and primary alkylaldehydes **79b** through decarbonylation and 1,2-alkynyl migration using DTBP as an oxidant (Scheme 63).¹¹⁵ The reaction operated successfully by utilizing other peroxides such as TBPB and DCP, while H_2O_2 resulted in trace products. Various α -alkynyl ketones **79c** were prepared through the construction of $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--C}(\text{sp}^3)$ and $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--C}(\text{sp})$ bonds via a radical pathway. This method is compatible with tertiary, secondary, and primary alkylaldehydes, demonstrating significant functional group tolerance and a wide range

Scheme 75. Na₂-eosin Y Catalyzed Acylation of Enamides with Aldehydes in the Presence of TBPB

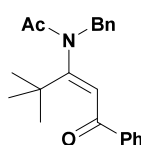
R = 4-Br, 78%
 R = 4-I, 40%
 R = 3-Cl, 81%
 R = 4-F, 69%
 R = 4-CF₃, 83%
 R = 4-CO₂Et, 73%
 R = 4-SO₂Me, 78%
 R = 4-OMe, 65%
 R = 2-Me, 61%



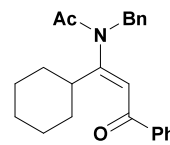
61%



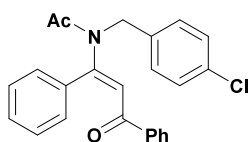
71%



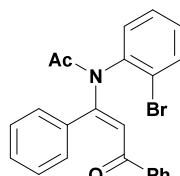
40%



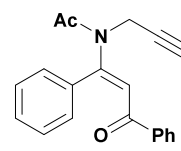
31%



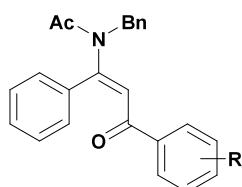
71%



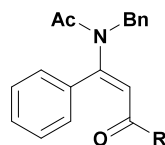
65%



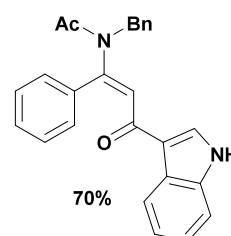
60%



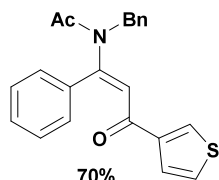
R = 4-OMe, 73%
 R = 4-SMe, 75%
 R = 4-CF₃, 75%
 R = 3-Cl, 70%
 R = 4CN, 40%
 R = 2-F, 70%



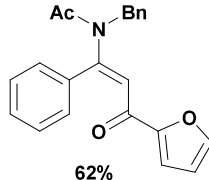
R = cyclohexyl, 47%
 R = *n*-propyl, 51%
 R = isobutyl, 68%
 R = *n*-hexyl, 55%
 R = *n*-heptyl, 60%



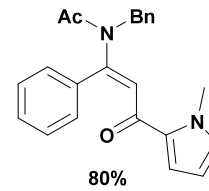
70%



70%



62%



80%

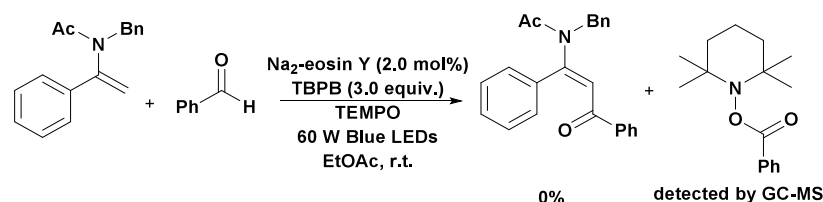
of substrates. It is particularly effective for synthesizing quaternary carbon-based but-3-yn-1-ones.

2.2.1. DTBP for Selective Functionalization and Coupling Reactions in Organic Synthesis. This section of the study identifies suitable reagents for various types of reactions, including C3-selective trifluoromethylation of indoles, C–H

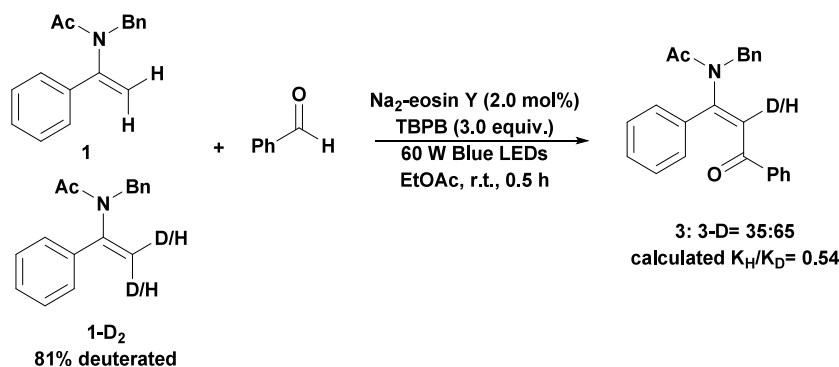
alkylation by oxidative coupling, and the preparation of 3-carbonyl-2-ene-indole derivatives. The C3-selective trifluoromethylation of indole derivatives in the presence of 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl(mesityl)iodonium triflate in the presence of 2,6-di-*tert*-butylpyridine (DTBPy) as a specific reagent demonstrates exceptional efficiency. The high achieved yields and

Scheme 76. Control Experiments and KIE Studies

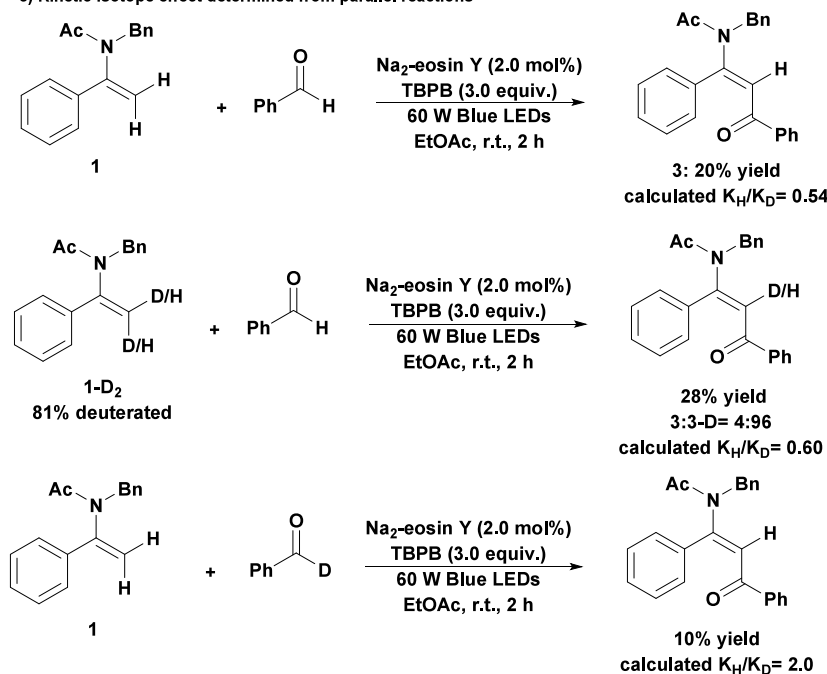
a) Radical-trapping experiment



b) Kinetic isotope effect determined from intermolecular competition



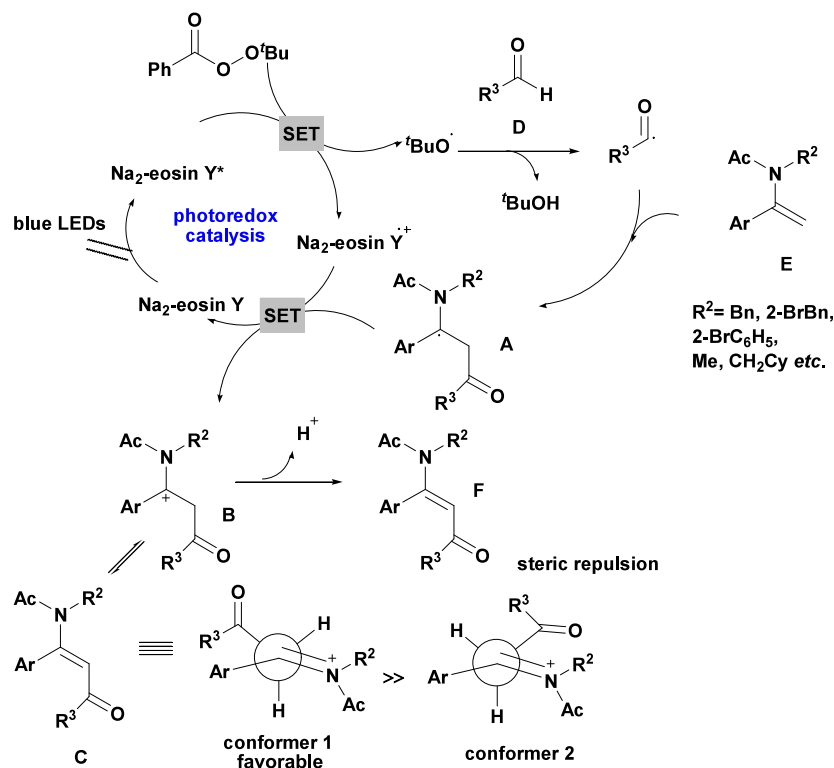
c) Kinetic isotope effect determined from parallel reactions



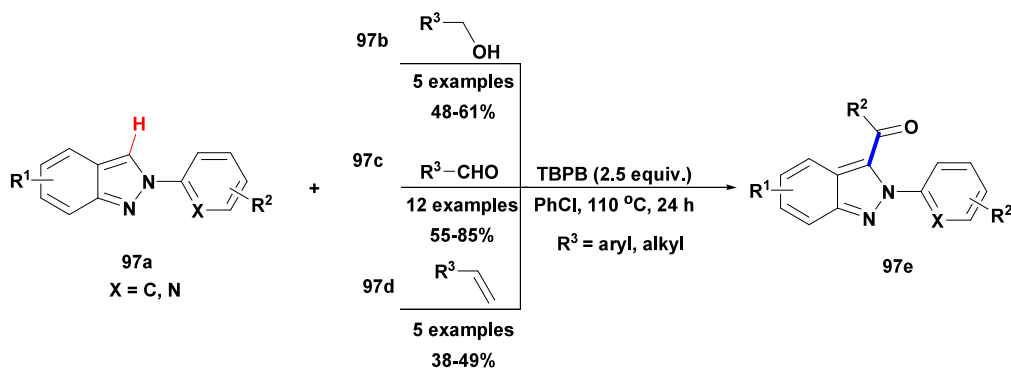
selectivity make this reagent a highly suitable option for the selective trifluoromethylation of indole-based compounds, establishing it as a valuable tool in organic synthesis.⁸⁴ Selective trifluoromethylation could also be evaluated by similar substrates and heterocycles having similar reactivity profiles like indole, using DTBPy. This reaction can be performed under similar conditions to achieve high selectivity and yield.¹¹⁶ C–H alkylation of heteroaromatic compounds and cross-dehydrogenative coupling (CDC) reactions could also be examined on heteroaromatic compounds such as pyridines and pyrazoles using DTBPy as a catalyst. This

method allows for the direct functionalization of C–H bonds, providing a straightforward approach to synthesizing alkylated heteroaromatic derivatives. These reactions highlight the versatility of DTBPy in various organic synthesis applications, making it a valuable tool for chemists working with indole-based and other heteroaromatic compounds.¹¹⁷ Additionally, the dehydrogenative cross-coupling of ketene dithioacetals with simple alkanes, cycloalkanes, or cyclic ethers is achieved effectively under metal-free conditions using diethyl peroxide (DTBP) as an oxidant in acetic acid. Acetic acid plays a crucial role by stabilizing reaction intermediates and creating a

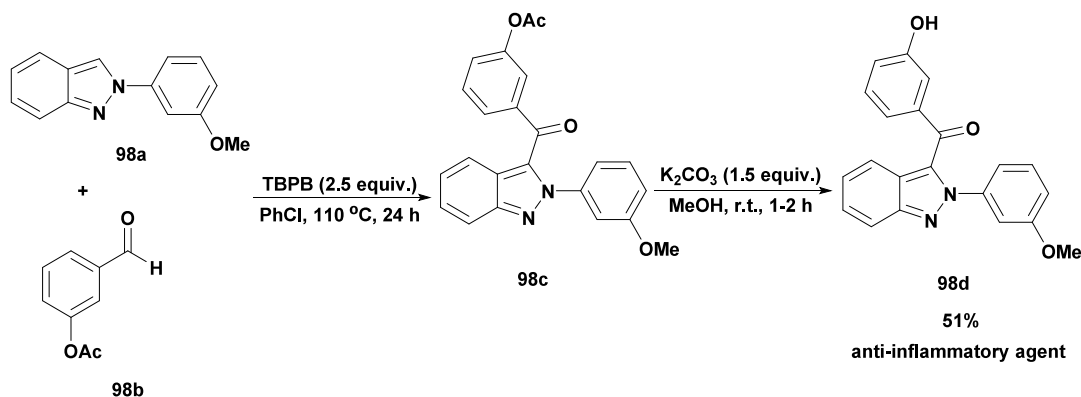
Scheme 77. Plausible Mechanism for Acylation of Enamides with Aldehydes



Scheme 78. C-3 Acylation and Benzoylation of 2H-Indazoles Using TBPB



Scheme 79. Synthesis of Anti-inflammatory Agent 98d



conductive environment, leading to a high efficiency and selectivity. The type of the employed solvent and oxidant has a great role in DTBP-assisted carbon–carbon bond formation.⁹⁶

It could also be applied for other heterocyclic compounds with similar reactivity profiles. For instance, DTBP has been used for the cross-dehydrogenative coupling of 3-aryl benzofuran-

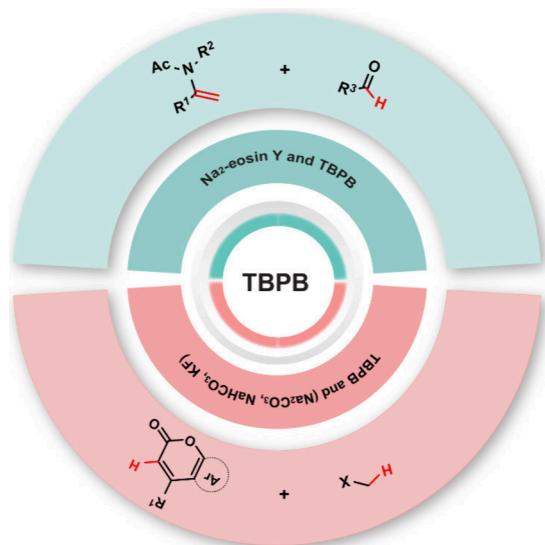


Figure 3. Suitable reagents for various types of coupling reactions with TBPB.

2(3*H*)-ones and toluenes/phenols, generating all-carbon quaternary centers.¹¹⁸ Furthermore, for the synthesis of 3-carbonyl-2-ene-indole derivatives and other structurally related compounds, DTBP can be used as an oxidant in combination with KF as a base.¹¹⁴ This approach is especially effective for substrates with activated methylene groups and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds. The metal-free oxidative ketonization/olefination method could also be extended to other indole derivatives or heterocyclic compounds with similar reactivity profiles, showcasing its versatility and effectiveness in organic synthesis^{119–121} (Figure 2).

2.3. Coupling Reactions with TBPB. *tert*-Butyl peroxybenzoate (TBPB) is a light yellow liquid ester peroxide with a half-life of 10 h at 104 °C, 1 h at 124 °C, and 1 min at 165 °C.¹²² TBPB, due to the *tert*-butyl and benzoyl groups, has good solubility in organic solvents. Therefore, it has been used in various coupling reactions with transition metals or in the absence of metals as an efficient radical initiator.¹²³ In 2011, Wang and co-workers reported a metal-free and without base method for C2-amidation of azole **80a** derivatives in the use of TBPB as the sole oxidant in the reaction (Scheme 64).¹²⁴ Screening of other organic oxidants such as (*t*-C₄H₉O)₂, (C₆H₅COO)₂, TBHP, and DCP showed that none of them yielded better results. When inorganic oxidants K₂S₂O₈ and (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ were utilized, product **80c** was achieved in a lower yield. Moreover, no product was isolated in the presence of cyclohexanone peroxide, I₂, PhI(OAc)₂, Ag₂CO₃, and Ag₂O.

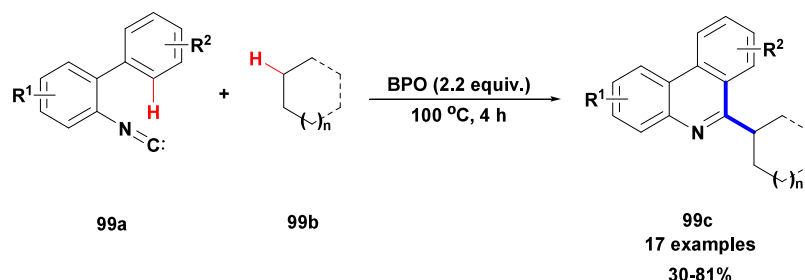
The authors also investigated the reaction under transition metal conditions (FeCl₃: 57% yield, FeCl₂: 26% yield, Fe(OAc)₂: 65% yield, Cu(OAc)₂: 23% yield, CuBr₂: 14% yield, CoCl₂: 32% yield, Pd(OAc)₂: 0% yield). The reaction exhibited a lower efficiency under such conditions. The findings showed that metals did not enhance the reaction speed but hindered it. The target product was achieved with a 75% yield when TBPB was used under metal-free conditions.

In 2012, Wang et al. documented the C3-formylation of both *N*-H and *N*-substituted indoles **81a** with *N*-methylaniline **81b**. This reaction was catalyzed by ⁿBu₄NI and employed TBPB as the oxidant (Scheme 65).¹²⁵ Notably, exploration of various amines, including Et₃N, DMF, Et₂NMe, Me₂NH, Cy₂NMe, Ph₂NMe, and BnNHPh, as potential carbonyl sources for the formylation of indoles **81c** did not yield any formylation products. However, PhNMe₂ and BnNMe₂ produced the corresponding formylation products with yields of 39% and 5%, respectively. This approach is especially beneficial because it can be used for both *N*-H and *N*-substituted indoles without requiring harmful phosphorus oxychloride or transition metals.

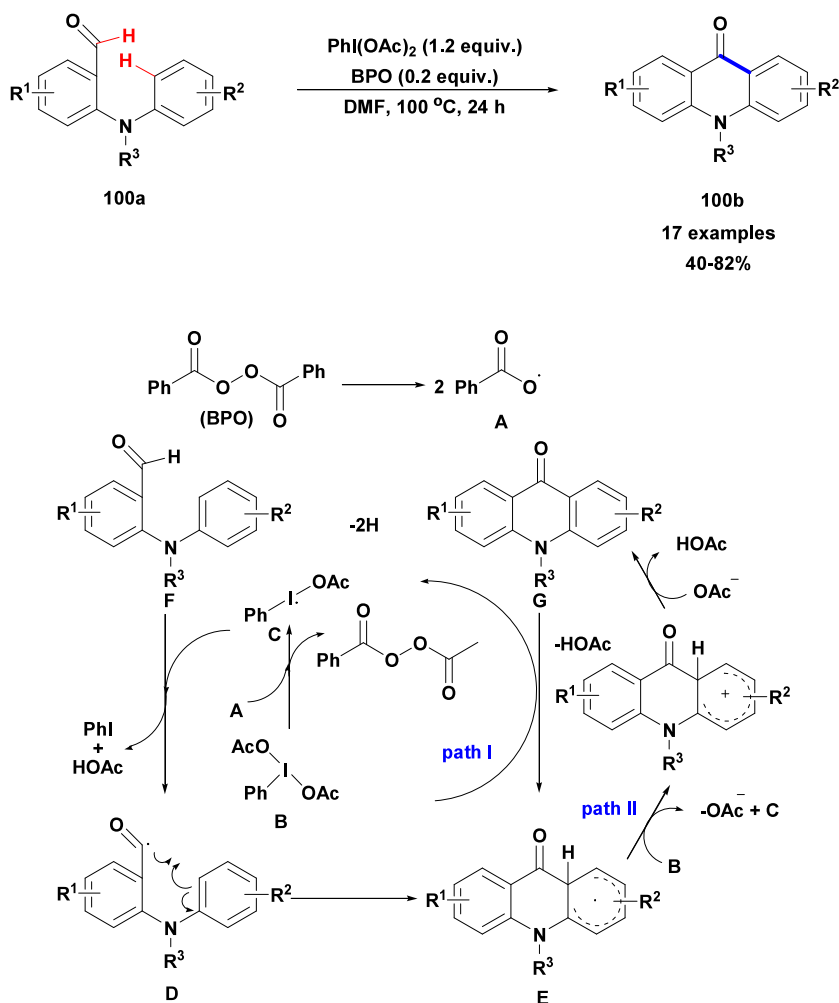
The Ji group introduced an innovative method for the functionalization of C(sp³)-H bonds in both cyclic and open-chain ethers **82b** using α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols **82a**, facilitated by TBPB, and notably without the use of any transition metals (Scheme 66).¹²⁶ In the protocol, a variety of α -aryl- β -alkylated carbonyl ketones were produced through cascade oxidative addition and migration, achieving yields ranging from moderate to excellent. With the introduction of a radical scavenger (TEMPO) by the authors, the reaction was entirely halted. This finding indicated that the reaction followed a radical mechanism, with the decomposition of TBPB leading to the formation of ^tBuO[•] and benzoate radicals. Then, hydrogen abstraction of 1,4-dioxane with the ^tBuO[•] radical resulted in the formation of the alkyl radical **B**, which attached to allylic alcohol **A**, providing intermediate **D**. Subsequently, intramolecular 5-*ipso* cyclization produced spiro[2,5]octadienyl **E**. Simultaneously, 1,2-aryl migration formed the radical species **F**. Finally, the expected product **G** was isolated by further oxidation and deprotonation.

Following a similar strategy, Ji and colleagues outlined a technique for the alkylation of α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols **84a** with carbonyl compounds **84b**, including ketones, esters, and amides, utilizing TBPB (Scheme 67).¹²⁷ They synthesized 1,5-diketones **84c** from simple ketones, 1,5-diketones and γ -acyloxy ketones from esters, and γ -amido ketones from amide substrates. This method showcases efficient C(sp³)-H functionalization alongside radical addition and 1,2-aryl migration using simple carbonyl derivatives. It demonstrates excellent functional group compatibility and selectivity,

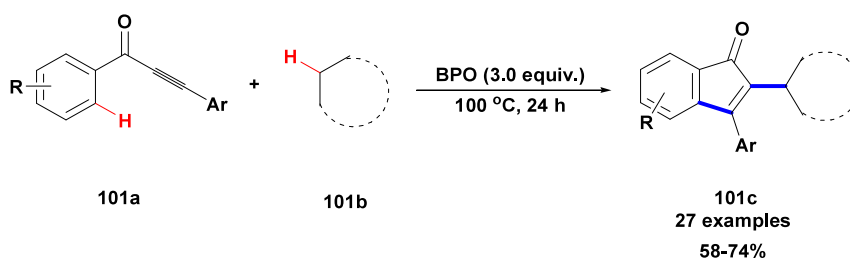
Scheme 80. BPO-Promoted Phenanthridinylation of Simple Alkanes with 2-Aryl Phenyl Isonitrile



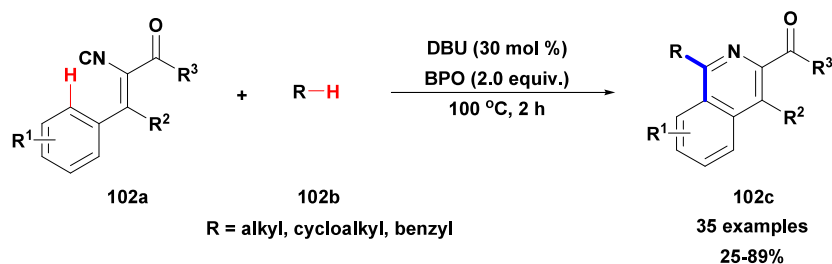
Scheme 81. Proposed Mechanism and Intramolecular Oxidative Aryl-aldehyde C(sp²)–C(sp²) Bond Formation Facilitated by PhI(OAc)₂



Scheme 82. BPO-Mediated Construction of 3-Aryl-2-cycloalkyl Indenones



Scheme 83. BPO-Promoted Preparation of 1-Alkylisoquinolines



producing various diketones and ketones. Future work should be performed to delve into the reaction mechanism.

Nitriles serve as versatile intermediates for the preparation of amides, amidines, esters, primary amines, ketones, aldehydes,

Scheme 84. Direct Oxidative C(sp³)-H Functionalization of Unactivated Alkanes Facilitated by BPO



and carboxylic acids.^{128,129} Hence, the synthesis of these compounds *via* cross-coupling has been highly regarded as being useful by scientists in this field. In 2015, the same group investigated the same conditions in α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols with acetonitrile and simple alkanes (Scheme 68). Echoing their earlier research, this procedure also entailed cascade oxidative addition and migration in α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols, culminating in the production of satisfactory results.¹³⁰

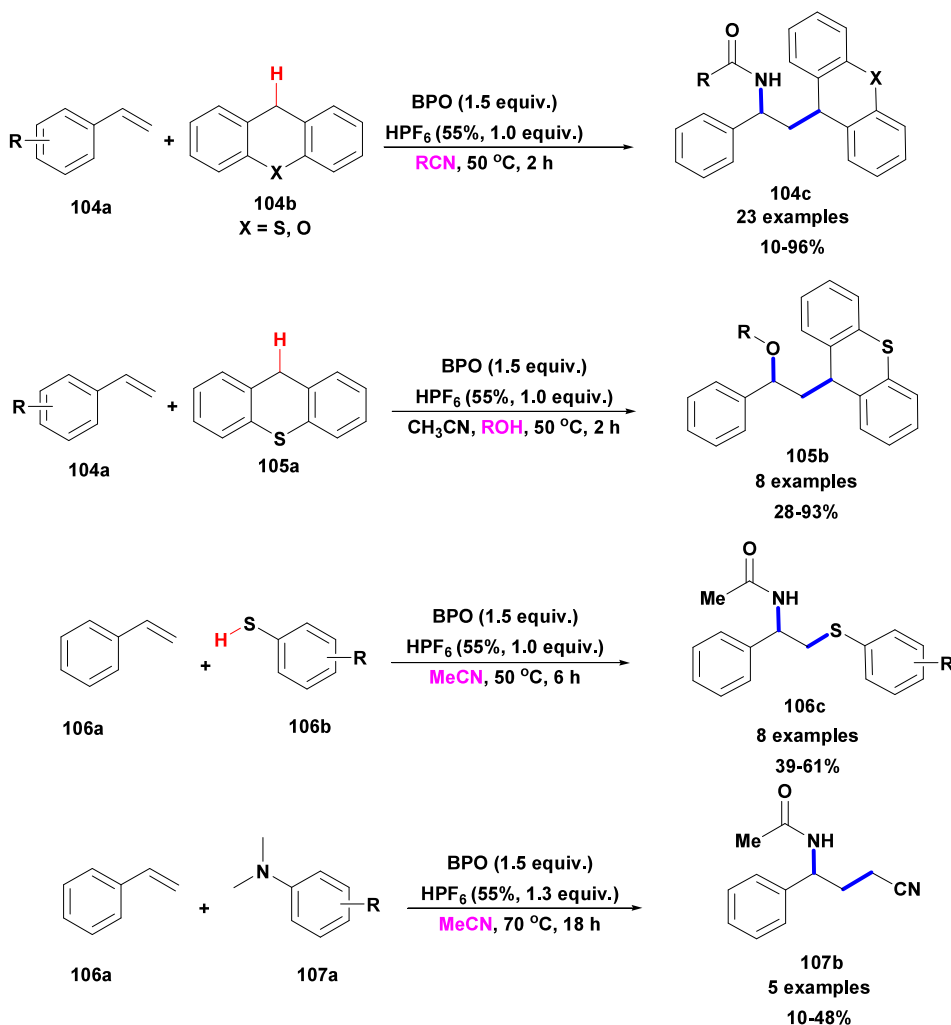
Li and colleagues outlined a technique for synthesizing 5-oxo-pentanenitriles **87c** through the oxidative radical 1,2-alkylarylation. This process involves the reaction between the C–C double bonds of inactive alkenes, such as α -aryl allylic alcohols **87a**, and the α -C(sp³)-H bonds of acetonitriles **87b** (Scheme 69).¹³¹ As outlined by the authors, the proposed mechanism suggests that the decomposition of TBPB leads to

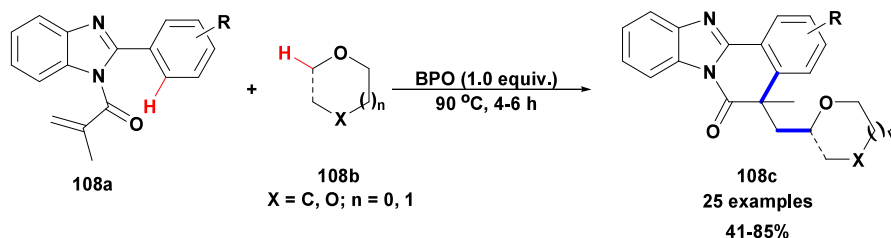
the generation of ^tBuO[•] and PhCOO[•] radicals. Subsequently, alkyl radical **B** was generated via SET and then added to the C–C double bond of substrate **C**, resulting in the formation of alkyl radical **D**. At the same time, alkyl radical intermediate **D** underwent a 1,2-migration of the aryl group through spiro[2,5]octadienyl radical **E**, leading to the formation of intermediate **F**. The further oxidation of intermediate **F** led to the formation of the final product **G** with the help of TBPB (Scheme 70).

Wu's group detailed the oxidative acylation of α,α -diarylallylic alcohol compounds **88a** with aromatic aldehyde compounds **88b**, utilizing TBPB without the use of heavy metals (Scheme 70).¹³² 3.0 equiv of TBPB resulted in a 76% yield of the product, while 4.0 equiv of TBPB resulted in a yield of 94%. Utilization of other oxidants, including TBHP, DTBP, K₂S₂O₈, H₂O₂, and O₂, was partially effective in this reaction. They introduced an innovative acylation technique for α,α -diarylallylic alcohols, which utilizes aryl aldehydes and involves aryl rearrangement. This process results in the formation of new C(Ar)–C(sp³) and C(sp³)–C(CO) bonds, yielding various 1,2,4-triphenylbutane-1,4-diones with moderate to excellent efficiency. The reaction also demonstrated the chemoselective migration of diverse aryl groups.

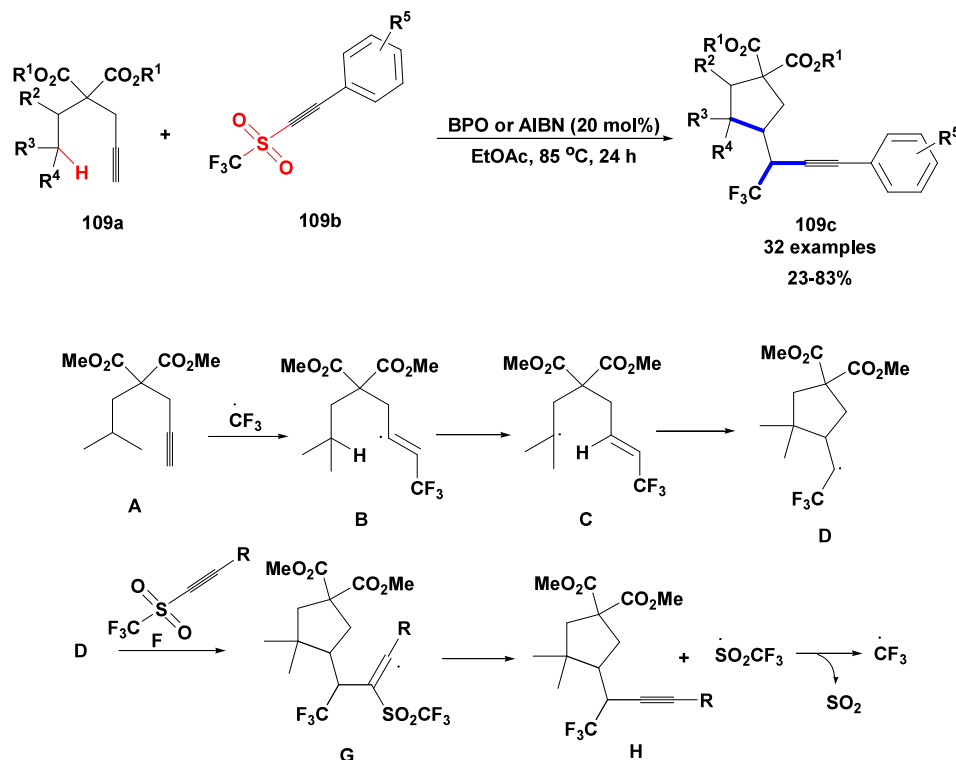
Peng and Ding conducted an extensive study of the direct C-4 alkylation of quinazoline N-oxides with ethers through an

Scheme 85. Difunctionalization of Styrenes with Stabilized Radicals and (N,O)-Nucleophiles Facilitated by HPF₆/BPO



Scheme 86. Metal-Free Preparation of Benzimidazo[2,1-*a*]isoquinolin-6(*5H*)-ones

Scheme 87. BPO/AIBN-Promoted 1,1,2-Trifunctionalization of Terminal Alkynes and the Suggested Mechanism Reported



oxidative cross-coupling reaction in the absence of metals. Their research emphasized cross-dehydrogenative coupling between quinazoline-3-oxide derivatives and ethers, utilizing TBPB as the oxidizing agent (Scheme 71).¹³³ The direct alkylation of quinazoline *N*-oxides specifically targeted the C4-position of the substrates. Utilizing cyclic and open-chain ethers, including 1,4-dioxane, 1,3-dioxolane, 1,3-benzodioxole, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, diethoxymethane, and diethyl ether, resulted in moderate to good yields.

Yan et al. successfully developed a radical C3-functionalization method for coumarin derivatives using acetonitrile and acetone (91b and 92b) using *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate (TBPB) as the oxidant, thereby eliminating the necessity for a metal catalyst (Scheme 72).¹³⁴ Their study also explored the 3-cyanomethylation of α,β -unsaturated ketones under these conditions. In their experiments, inorganic bases such as Na_2CO_3 (61%), NaHCO_3 (43%), and KF (67%) proved to be more effective than organic bases like NEt_3 (23%) or DBU (trace) for synthesizing C3-cyanomethylated coumarin 91c derivatives. They reported an innovative dehydrogenation coupling reaction involving coumarins and acetonitrile through direct $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ activation of acetonitrile, resulting in the production of 3-cyanomethyl-coumarins with commendable

functional group tolerance and moderate to good yields. When acetonitrile was replaced by acetone, this led to the production of 3-acetomethyl coumarins in moderate yields. This approach offers a highly effective and novel method for synthesizing cyanomethyl- (or acetomethyl)-substituted coumarins. The proposed mechanism involves a radical pathway to explain the oxidative C–H activation of acetonitrile.

Zhang's team devised a method for the direct $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ cyanation of hydrocarbons, utilizing cyanobenziodoxolones 93c as both cyanating reagents and oxidants (Scheme 73).¹³⁵ Tertiary amines 93a or simple alkanes/ethers 93b underwent this transformation, and a series of corresponding nitriles 93d/93e were obtained. The mechanistic investigations revealed that, based on the substrates used, alkanes and ethers followed a free radical pathway, while tertiary amines underwent an oxidative pathway. The mechanism suggested by the authors involved two types of peptides (I and II). A free radical mechanism was proposed for the cyanation of alkanes and ethers, while an oxidative cyanation pathway (pathway II) was suggested for tertiary amines. Both mechanisms initiated with the generation of the $^t\text{BuO}\cdot$ radical from TBPB. In the radical pathway I, hydrogen atom abstraction from an R–H bond in the substrate by the $^t\text{BuO}\cdot$ radical led to the formation of

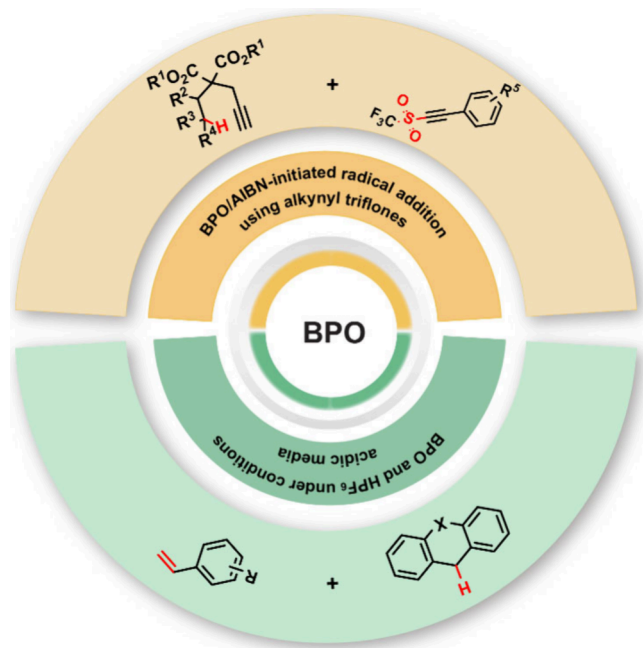


Figure 4. Suitable reagents for coupling reactions with BPO.

carbon radical **B**. The interaction between **C** and **B** resulted in the capture of **B** by **C**, producing nitrile **3(E)** and an iodine-centered radical **D**. Subsequently, **D** underwent hydrogen atom abstraction from the substrate via a metal-free catalytic process. Concurrently, **B** was regenerated, leading to the formation of 2-iodobenzoic acid **J**. In tertiary amines, a single-electron transfer (SET) process occurred from nitrogen to the *tert*-butoxy radical, forming nitrogen-centered cation radical **H** and a *tert*-butoxy anion. The α -C(sp³) radical **G** was generated from **H** via deprotonation by a base, which then underwent SET oxidation by **C** to produce iminium cations **F** and released **D** alongside a cyanide anion. The nucleophilic addition of a cyanide anion to **F** formed cyanated product **5(E)**, while **H** was regenerated through SET oxidation of substrate **4** with **D** (Scheme 73).

Patel described a method for C3-functionalization of 4-arylcoumarins **94a** using cycloalkanes **94b** as the cycloalkylation reagents, formamides **95a** as the amidation sources, and TBPB as the reaction oxidant (Scheme 74).¹³⁶ They introduced a technique for C-3 cycloalkylation and amidation of 4-arylcoumarins. This method demonstrates excellent tolerance for a variety of substituted 4-arylcoumarins, cycloalkanes, and formamides, resulting in C-3 functionalized products. This streamlined protocol significantly enhances the efficiency of the C–H bond functionalization process, particularly for internal alkenes.

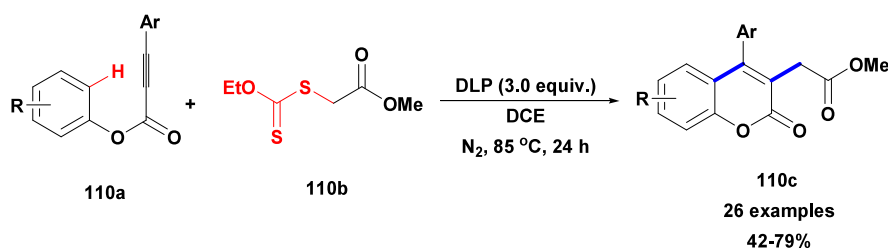
Zhao and his team developed an elegant method for the β -selective C(sp²)–H acylation of enamides **96a** with aldehydes **96b**. The reaction utilizes Na₂-eosin Y as a photocatalyst and TBPB as the oxidant, under the irradiation of a 60 W blue LED at room temperature (Scheme 75).¹³⁷ The yields of the products **96c** were lower in the absence of irradiation, Na₂-eosin Y, or TBPB. After screening some photocatalysts such as fac-Ir(ppy)₃ (37%), Ru(bpy)₃Cl₂ (trace), and eosin Y (37%), various oxidants such as H₂O₂ (12%), PhI(OAc)₂ (13%), K₂S₂O₈ (15%), BPO (34%), and O₂ (trace) and also a series of solvents including 1,2-dichloroethane (39%), dioxane (33%), toluene (43%), and acetonitrile (61%), optimal results were achieved using Na₂-eosin Y and TBPB in ethyl acetate, yielding 69%. Various enamides bearing different para-, ortho-, or meta-substituents as well as sensitive ester and sulfone substituents with different aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes were investigated under reaction conditions. Some control experiments and KIE studies were conducted by the authors.

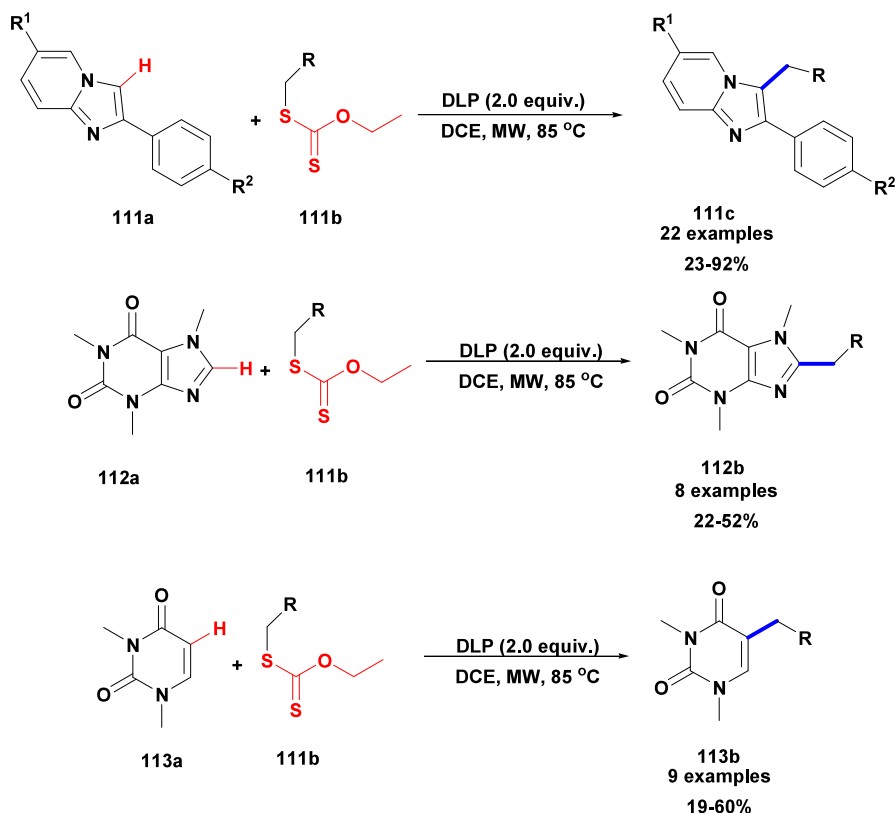
In a radical-trapping experiment, the use of TEMPO prevented the formation of the product, suggesting that the reaction proceeded through a radical pathway. During intermolecular competition between enamide and enamide-*d*₂, a K_H/K_D value of 0.54 was observed, indicating that cleavage of the olefinic C–H bond was unlikely to be the rate-determining step. In parallel experiments, when enamide-*d*₂ was used, the kinetic isotope effect (KIE) displayed a K_H/K_D value of 0.60, while a K_H/K_D value of 2.0 was obtained when aldehyde-*d* was used. This suggests that the rate-limiting step in the reaction may involve generation of the acyl radical via cleavage of the C–H bond in aldehydes (Scheme 76).

Consequently, the authors suggested a mechanism in which Na₂-eosin Y transitions into its excited state, Na₂-eosin Y*, upon absorbing a photon. This is followed by a single-electron transfer (SET) between the excited Na₂-eosin Y* and TBPB, generating a radical cation Na₂-eosin Y⁺ and a ^tBuO• radical. Afterward, the ^tBuO• radical interacted with aldehyde **D**, forming an acyl radical species, which was then intercepted by enamide **E** to create the radical intermediate **A**. Subsequently, the single-electron oxidation of **A** by Na₂-eosin Y⁺ produced carbon cationic species **B**, which could be transformed into iminium ion **C**. Finally, the desired product **F** was obtained through the deprotonation of intermediate **C** or **D**. The analysis of iminium ion **D** to clarify stereospecificity in the reaction demonstrated that conformer **1** was sterically more favorable compared to conformer **2** due to reduced allylic strain between the newly introduced acyl group and the bulky group on the nitrogen atom, leading to the preferential formation of the E-acylated enamides following deprotonation (Scheme 77).

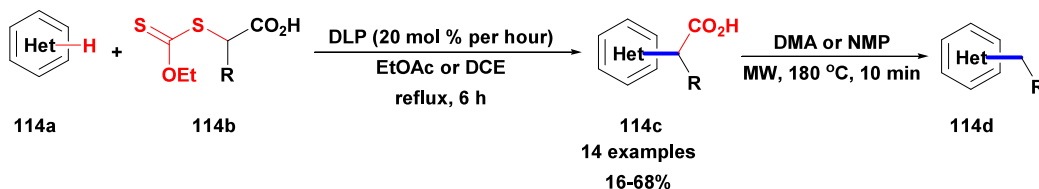
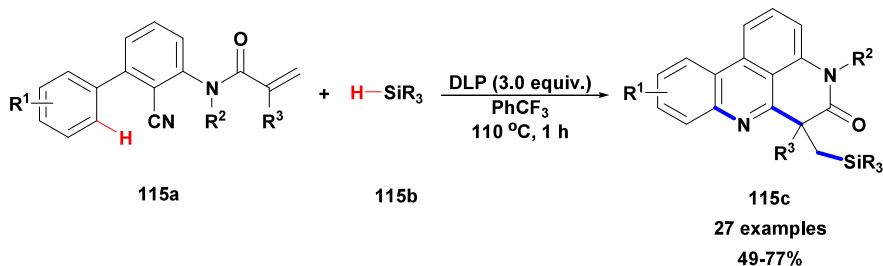
Chaudhary and colleagues introduced a method for regioselective straightforward C-3 acylation and benzoylation

Scheme 88. DLP-Promoted Radical Addition/Cyclization of Alkynoates with Xanthates



Scheme 89. Oxidative Radical Alkylation of Imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines, Caffeine, and 1,3-Dimethyluracil

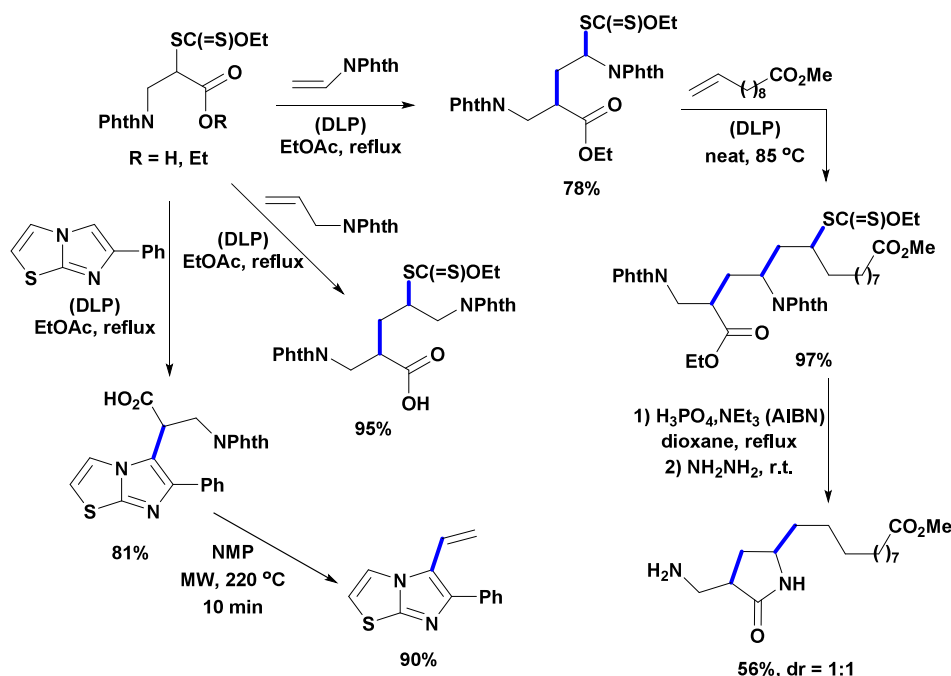
Scheme 90. DLP-Mediated Methylation and Related Alkylations of Heteroarenes and Decarboxylation by MW Irradiation

Scheme 91. DLP-Mediated Synthesis of Silyl-Functionalized Pyrido[4,3-*g*]phenanthridin-5(6*H*)-one Derivatives

of substituted 2*H*-indazoles **97a** using a diverse variety of aldehydes **97c**, benzyl alcohols **97b**, and styrenes **97d** to generate substituted 3-(acyl/benzoyl)-2*H*-indazoles **97e** (Scheme 78).¹²³ Aryl and heteroaryl 2*H*-indazoles **98a** reacted well with 4-methylbenzaldehyde **98b**, producing the corresponding products **98c** with moderate to good yields, while 2-cyclohexyl-2*H*-indazole and 1*H*-indazole were unreactive under this reaction system.

The gram-scale synthesis and introduction of a simple metal-free method for the synthesis of anti-inflammatory agent **98d** were other advantages of this work (Scheme 79).

2.3.1. Versatility and Efficiency of TBPB in Organic Synthesis. This section of the study categorizes suitable reagents for various types of reactions, highlighting the versatility and effectiveness of TBPB in facilitating diverse coupling reactions. TBPB could be employed as an oxidant in the C3 radical functionalization of coumarin derivatives with acetonitrile and acetone under metal-free conditions. Inorganic bases such as Na₂CO₃, NaHCO₃, and KF exhibited higher efficiency compared to organic bases like NEt₃ and DBU. To broaden the applicability of this reaction, it is promising to explore decarboxylative coupling reactions with aliphatic carboxylic acids to synthesize 3-alkyl coumarins under metal-

Scheme 92. Flexible Route to β^2 -Amino Acids and β -Heteroarylethylamines in the Presence of DLP

free conditions.¹³⁴ The reaction proceeds via the decarboxylation of aliphatic carboxylic acids, forming a carbon–carbon bond.^{138–140} Additionally, investigating the 3-cyanomethylation of other α,β -unsaturated ketones or similar substrates can further broaden the applicability of this method.^{13,141} Furthermore, similar metal-free conditions could be applied to functionalize other heterocyclic compounds, to create diverse bioactive molecules.¹⁴² These proposals leverage the efficiency of TBPB and metal-free conditions to develop innovative synthetic methodologies for a wide range of substrates. For β -selective $C(sp^2)$ –H acylation of enamides, Na_2 -eosin Y could serve as a photocatalyst and TBPB as an oxidant. Future proposals for $C(sp^2)$ –H acylation include exploring the acylation of different enamides with aldehydes or various ketones to broaden the reaction scope.¹³⁷ Additionally, radical addition reactions involving other alkenes and benzaldehydes can be investigated for the synthesis of new carbonyl-containing compounds.¹²³ Moreover, $C(sp^2)$ –H functionalization of other substrates, such as aromatic compounds, could be explored to create new derivatives with diverse functional groups^{143,144} (Figure 3).

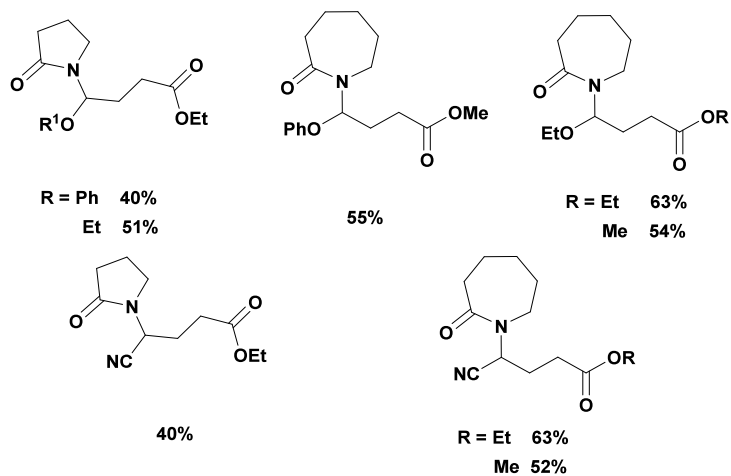
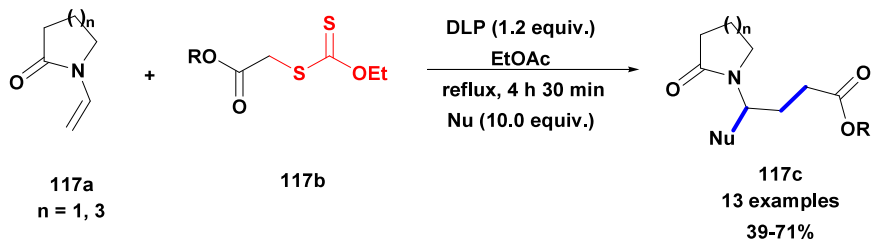
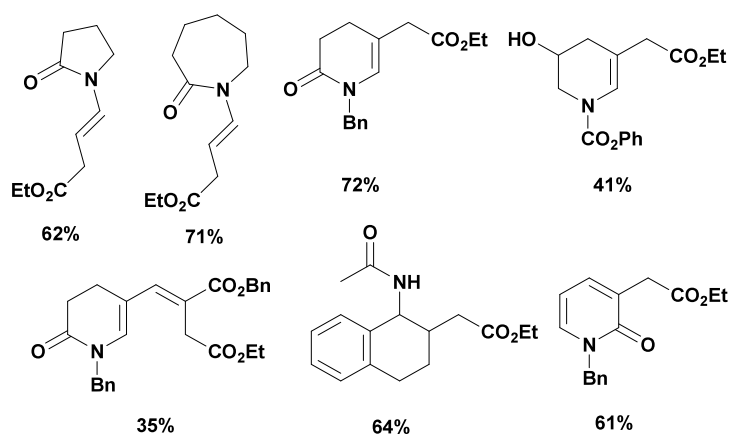
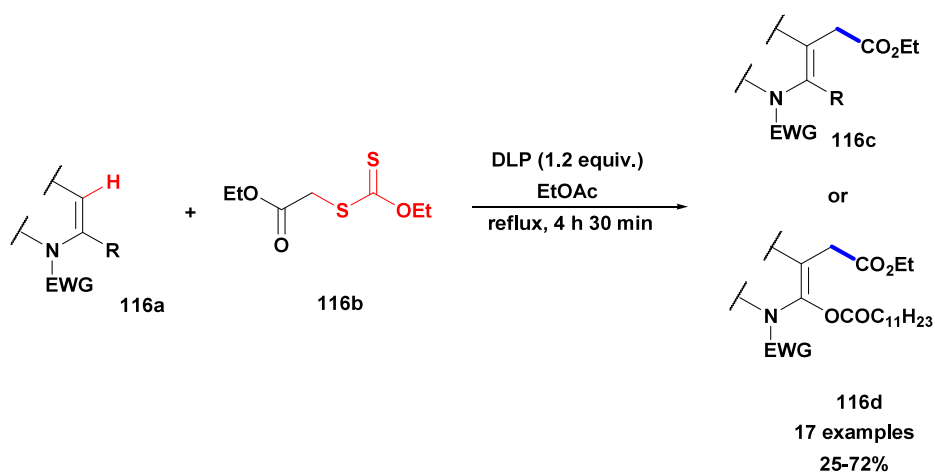
2.4. Coupling Reactions with BPO. Dibenzoyl peroxide (BPO) is a white granular solid peroxide with a half-life of 1 h at 91 °C and 10 h at 72 °C, which is mainly used in polymerization and also the medical industry.¹⁴⁵ In 2014, Cheng and co-workers described phenanthridinylation of simple alkanes **99b** with 2-aryl phenyl isonitrile **99a** using BPO as the sole oxidant in a radical aromatic cyclization reaction (Scheme 80).¹⁴⁶ Notably, the utilization of $FeCl_2$, $CuCl_2$, and CuI in the reaction did not improve the efficiency. Both alkanes and cycloalkanes, especially cyclohexane, were tolerated well in the transformation. Mechanistic investigations ($K_H/K_D = 6.1$ – 8.1) indicated that the rate-determining step involved the cleavage of the $C(sp^3)$ –H bond in alkanes.

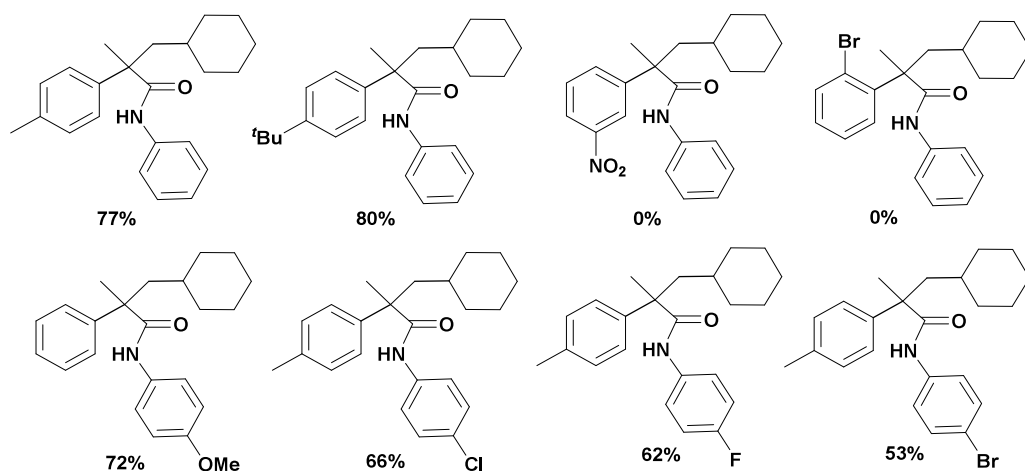
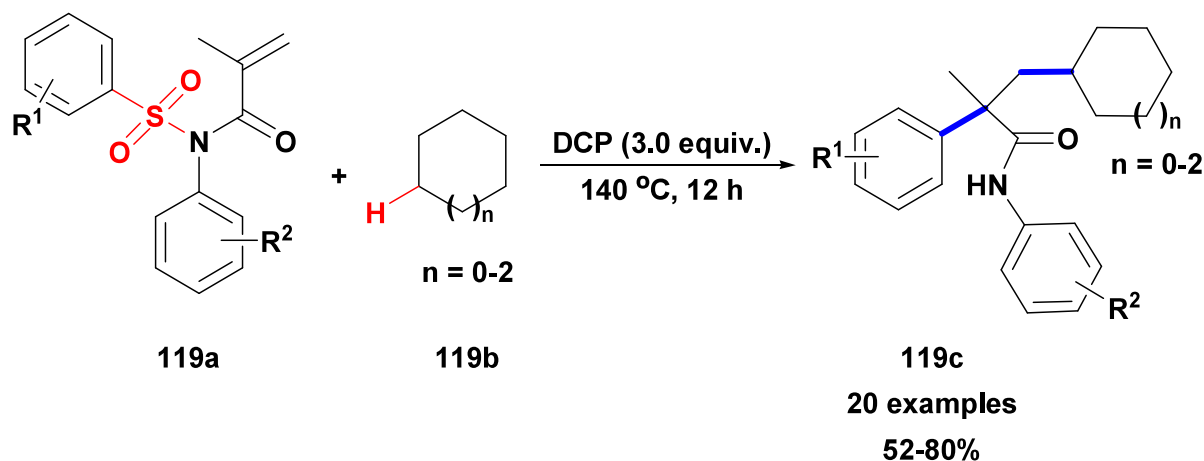
Zhao and his team introduced a procedure for intramolecular aryl-aldehyde **100a** $C(sp^2)$ – $C(sp^2)$ bond formation through CDC, mediated by $PhI(OAc)_2$ to generate acridones

100b (Scheme 81).¹⁴⁷ In previous studies, the construction of acridones was performed by using metals, whereas iodine(III) was used as a reagent in this process. A plausible radical mechanism for this transformation begins with the decomposition of BPO upon heating, producing benzoyloxy radical **A**. This radical then reacts with iodobenzene diacetate **B**, forming radical **C**. Radical **C** abstracts a hydrogen atom from the CHO group of aldehyde **F**, leading to the generation of the acyl radical **D**. Subsequently, the splitting of a π -bond results in the formation of cyclohexadienyl radical **E**. The second hydrogen atom abstraction by radical **B** from the $C(sp^3)$ position restores aromaticity, thereby forming desired product **G**. Alternatively, single-electron oxidation of radical **E** by either **B** or radical **C** produces cation **F**, which is then deprotonated by the acetate anion to yield final product **G** (Scheme 81).

Carbocycle frameworks such as indinones are widely abundant in natural compounds.^{148–151} The construction of an indenone skeleton is conventionally achieved in the presence of transition metals such as Pd, Co, Rh, and Mn or $MeOTf$.^{152–160} Pan and Yu reported a protocol for preparation of 2-alkyl-3-aryl indenones **101c** through a radically oxidative carboannulation of ynones **101a** with simple alkanes **101b** smoothly promoted by benzoyl peroxide (BPO) under metal- and solvent-free conditions (Scheme 82).¹⁶¹ This BPO-promoted method tolerates various functional groups, producing indenone **101c** efficiently.

Isoquinolines are important building blocks of natural products, serving as excellent scaffolds in drug discovery.^{162–165} Traditionally, isoquinoline scaffolds are synthesized via Pomeranz–Fritsch, Bischler–Napieralski, and Pictet–Spengler reactions.^{166–169} Due to the harsh conditions often associated with such reactions, the functionalization of the C–H bond to form the C–C bond through oxidative cross-coupling has gained much interest in recent years. In 2018, Shao and his team reported the synthesis of 1-alkylisoquinolines **102c** via a radical cyclization of vinyl isocyanides **102a** with simple alkanes **102b** (Scheme 83).¹⁷⁰ Different aliphatic

Scheme 93. DLP-Promoted β -C(sp²)-H Alkylation of Enamides and DLP-Promoted Difunctionalization of Enamides

Scheme 94. Cascade Reaction between *N*-Phenyl-*N*-(phenylsulfonyl)-methacrylamides and Cyclohexane

alkanes, cycloalkanes, toluene, 2-ethylpyridine, 4-ethylpyridine, 3-ethylpyridine, and phenylethane exhibited moderate to good yields in this cyclization reaction.

In 2019, Sun and Liu devised a method for synthesizing a range of 6-alkyl 6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromene derivatives **103c**. This was achieved through a cascade reaction involving biaryl vinyl ethers **103a** and inactivated alkanes **103b**, mediated by BPO in a transition-metal-free environment (Scheme 84).¹⁷¹ Benzoyloxy radicals abstract an H atom from alkanes, which results in the formation of alkane radicals. The addition of these alkane radicals to the C=C double bond of biaryl vinyl ethers leads to the cyclization products. This method efficiently accesses 6-alkyl-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromenes, avoiding costly catalysts and bases. It also enables the synthesis of 6-alkyl-6*H*-benzo[*c*]-thiochromenes and holds promise for medicinal chemists in constructing oxygen- or sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds.

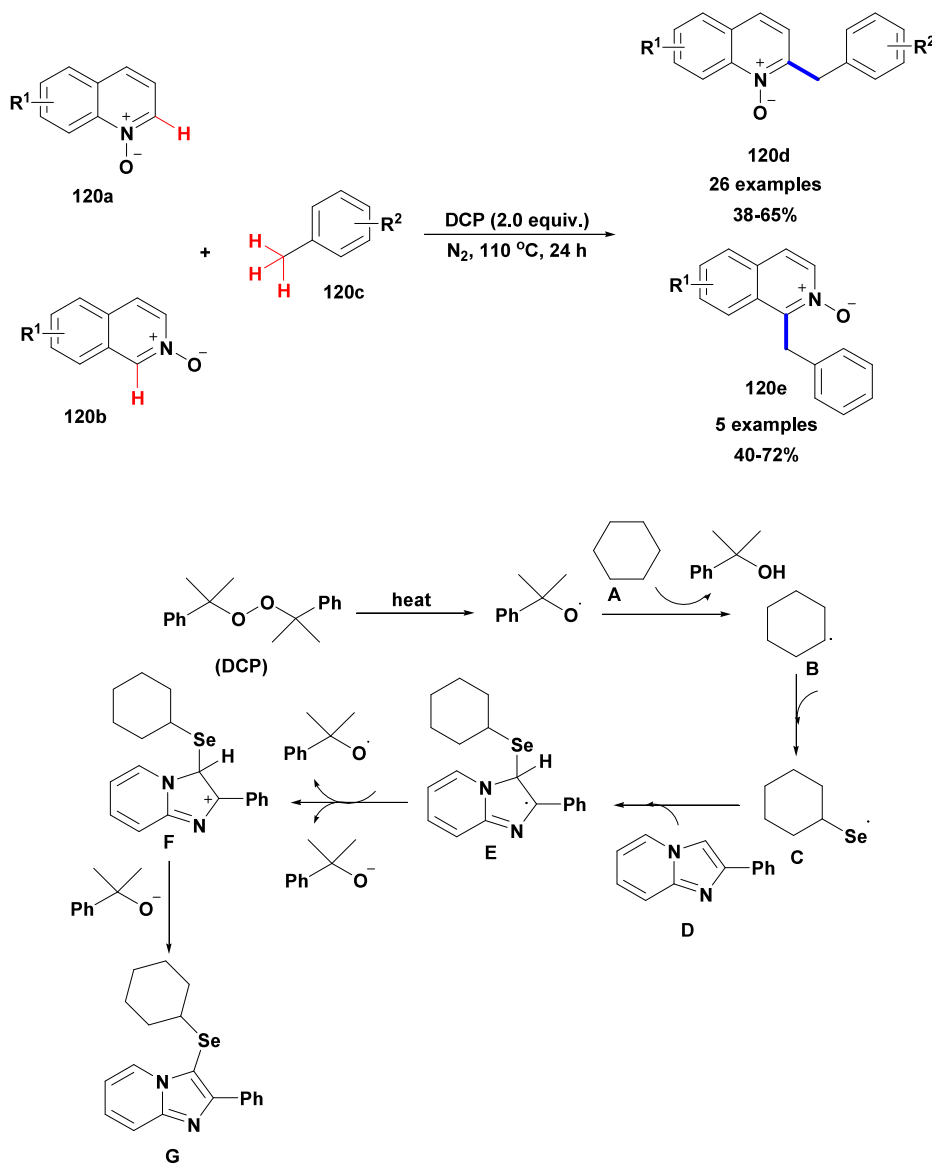
Klussmann and Liu devised a technique for the difunctionalization of styrenes **104a** through the sequential addition of a radical and a nucleophile (Scheme 85).¹⁷² The combination of BPO with HPF₆ as a strong Brønsted acid facilitated the radical initiation to transfer both the radical and nucleophile to thioxanthene **105b** and xanthene **104c**. The study demonstrated that BPO remained unchanged, even in the acidic environment created by HPF₆. However, when thioxanthene was present, benzoic acid was formed, highlighting thioxan-

thene's significant role in peroxide decomposition and HPF₆'s influence on the reduction potential of BPO. In the reaction, nitriles, alcohols, and thiophenols **106b** also served as nucleophiles. The product was not formed without BPO or in the presence of other peroxides. In the presence of *N,N*-dimethylaniline derivatives **107a**, two molecules of CH₃CN were added to styrene, creating the target product **107b**.

Sun and colleagues presented a metal-free approach for synthesizing structurally diverse benzimidazo[2,1-*a*]-isoquinolin-6(5*H*)-ones **108c**. This was achieved through a radical carbocyclization reaction involving 2-arylbenzimidazoles **108a** and cyclic ethers **108b**, with BPO acting as the sole oxidant in the process (Scheme 86).¹⁷³ Peroxides, including TBPB (75%), TBHP (58%), DTBP (33%), and DCP (41%), resulted in the formation of the desired products in lower yields compared with BPO (76%). During the process, the only byproducts of the reaction were nontoxic benzoic acids.

There are different methods for functionalization of terminal alkynes such as radical vicinal difunctionalization,^{174–176} radical-addition-translocation-cyclization,^{177–184} nonradical geminal difunctionalization,^{185–188} nonradical reductive geminal difunctionalization,^{189–192} and 1,1,2-trifunctionalization.¹⁹³ Studer and his team unveiled a radical addition-translocation-cyclization-trapping process initiated by BPO/AIBN, utilizing readily accessible alkynyl triflones as trifluoromethyl radical precursors and trapping agents (Scheme

Scheme 95. Possible Mechanism for Selenation of Imidazoheterocycles with Alkanes or Ethers



87).¹⁹⁴ A series of (1-trifluoromethyl)propargyl cyclopentane diastereoisomers **109c** was successfully synthesized through the addition of the trifluoromethyl **109b** radical to a terminal alkyne **109a**, followed by 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer and 5-exocyclization. DLP, TBHP, DTBP, TBPB, and ACBN also served as initiators in the reaction. Among them, DLP showed better efficiency, while the others provided lower yields. A mixture of two diastereoisomers was isolated in the transformation. The authors suggested a radical mechanism involving the formation of a $\cdot CF_3$ radical by thermal decomposition of BPO or AIBN and its reaction with triflone via an addition, β -elimination, SO_2 -fragmentation sequence. Then, the chemoselective addition of the trifluoromethyl radical at the terminal position of the alkyne resulted in the formation of the vinyl radical B. Radical B then underwent 1,5-HAT to form radical C. Subsequently, 5-exocyclization resulted in radical D, which was trapped by the triflone reagent F to produce vinyl radical G. β -Fragmentation furnished target product H along with further fragmentation of the trifluoromethylsulfonyl radical to produce SO_2 and the CF_3 radical (Scheme 87).

2.4.1. Versatility and Effectiveness of BPO in Coupling Reactions. The studies highlight the versatility and effectiveness of BPO in facilitating diverse coupling reactions. In the difunctionalization of styrenes, benzoyl peroxide (BPO) and hexafluorophosphoric acid (HPF_6) play crucial roles. BPO, as an oxidant, generates benzoyloxy radicals that abstract hydrogen atoms from thioxanthene, forming new radicals that add to styrenes to produce benzylic cations. These cations are then oxidized to yield the final products. HPF_6 , acting as a strong Brønsted acid, facilitates the radical initiation by protonating BPO, enhancing its reduction potential and promoting overall reaction efficiency.¹⁷² Given the significant role of thioxanthene in peroxide decomposition, other derivatives of thioxanthene and similar substrates could also be explored for similar reactions. Additionally, nitriles, alcohols, thiophenols, and other nucleophiles used in the reaction can be tested with different substrates to expand the reaction scope. BPO and HPF_6 could be employed to develop innovative synthetic methodologies for a wide range of substrates, potentially leading to the synthesis of new compounds with diverse functional groups.^{195,196} In the

functionalization of terminal alkynes, BPO and AIBN act as initiators, generating radicals. These radicals undergo a series of reactions, including addition, displacement, cyclization, and trapping, to form final products. The crucial steps include generating a trifluoromethyl radical, which reacts with the terminal alkyne. This is followed by hydrogen atom transfer and cyclization, resulting in the formation of the target cyclopentane derivatives.¹⁹⁴ Suggestions for similar substrates include using alkynes with electron-withdrawing groups such as cyano, nitro, or ester groups, which can undergo comparable radical reactions. Additionally, alkenes with halogen substituents such as bromine or iodine are suitable for similar radical addition processes. Furthermore, unsaturated carbonyl compounds such as halogen-containing malonic acid/esters can be employed to generate radicals under visible light irradiation^{197–199} (Figure 4).

2.5. Coupling Reactions with DLP. Lauroyl peroxide or dilauroyl peroxide (DLP) is a white solid diacylperoxide with a fast half-life of 1 h at 79 °C and 10 h at 61 °C. DLP is a readily biodegradable peroxide commonly used for polymerization processes. However, there are some reports of the use of this peroxide as a radical initiator in cross-coupling reactions. Construction of the coumarin framework has attracted significant attention because of its valuable pharmacological activities.^{200–204} Pan and Yu described a radical addition/cyclization method to access 3-(β -carbonyl)coumarins **110c** via a DLP-promoted cascade reaction using aryl alkynoates **110a** and xanthates **110b** (Scheme 88).²⁰⁵ Yield of the products was low in the presence of other organic oxidants such as BPO, DTBP, and TBHP. The utilization of $K_2S_2O_8$, $PhI(OAc)_2$, and H_2O_2 was not effective in this reaction.

Miranda and colleagues devised a method employing xanthate-based radical chemistry for the regioselective direct alkylation of caffeine, uracil, and imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine systems. This technique utilizes dilauroyl peroxide (DLP) as both the initiator and the oxidant under microwave irradiation. It enables the formation of Csp^2-Csp^3 bonds via C–H functionalization, starting from readily available materials. Electrophilic radicals (positioned alpha to a carbonyl function, like ketones, amides, esters, malonates, and cyano groups) can be regioselectively added to imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines, caffeine, and 1,3-dimethyluracil in the presence of DLP as a radical initiator under microwave irradiation (Scheme 89).²⁰⁶ Cross-coupling reaction results in low products under convectional heating; however, the yield increases under microwave heating.

In general, due to the widespread presence of heteroarenes in many biologically active molecules and functional organic compounds, the synthesis and functionalization of these structures have garnered significant importance.²⁰⁷ In 2018, Zard introduced a strategy for the synthesis of methylated and alkylated heteroarenes **114c** using an excess amount of xanthates **114b** in the presence of stoichiometric DLP, added to the reaction in an amount of 20 mol % per 1 h (Scheme 90).²⁰⁸ Then, decarboxylation of the carboxymethyl adduct was carried out using MW irradiation at 180 °C for 10 min, resulting in the formation of alkylated product **114d**. In this transformation, prevalent heteroarenes in the pharmaceutical field, such as caffeine, pyrazine, quinoxaline, purine, and also imidazopyridine, imidazopyrimidine, and imidazopyridazine exhibited a satisfactory reactivity.

Sun and colleagues detailed a radical cascade addition/cyclization reaction between *N*-arylacrylamides **115a** and trialkylsilanes **115b** using DLP under metal-free conditions

(Scheme 91).²⁰⁹ Mechanistic studies indicated that the reaction commenced with the addition of a silyl radical to the electron-deficient $C=C$ bond in *N*-arylacrylamides, followed by intramolecular cyclization involving the CN group. This sequence culminated in the formation of the desired product via hydrogen abstraction. They devised a rapid cascade cyclization method to synthesize silyl-functionalized pyrido[4,3-*g*]phenanthridin derivatives, using easily accessible hydrosilanes as sources of silyl radicals, all under metal-free conditions. This reaction is both efficient and atom-economical, exhibiting good tolerance for functional groups, thus proving valuable for organic synthesis and pharmaceutical research.

Zard and Chen reported a surprising vinylation reaction in which the radical addition of β -phthalimido- α -xanthyl propionic acid, whether as the free carboxylic acid or its ethyl ester, resulted in the formation of various protected β^2 -amino acids and β -heteroarylethylamines (Scheme 92).²¹⁰ The reaction was effectively performed in stoichiometric quantities of peroxide. Key practical advantages of this method include the low cost and ready availability of the reagents, the mildness of the experimental conditions, and the compatibility with various functionalities, particularly polar groups.

DLP-promoted regioselective $\beta-C(sp^2)-H$ alkylation of cyclic and acyclic enamides **116a** by xanthates **116b** leads to the formation of γ -amino- β,γ -unsaturated acyl scaffold **116c**/**116d** (Scheme 93).²¹¹ MeOH, EtOH, and PhOH are used as the related nucleophiles. The process involves a radical and polar reaction. This innovative regioselective reaction offers a wide substrate scope and exceptional functional group tolerance, demonstrating considerable potential for synthesizing a diverse range of *N*-containing building blocks. The extensive availability of xanthates further enhances the reaction's versatility, effectively merging a radical process with a polar reaction.

2.6. Coupling Reactions with DCP. Dicumyl peroxide (DCP) is a white solid organic peroxide with a half-life of 1 h at 135 °C and 10 h at 114 °C. It recently showed good potential as a radical initiator and also a methylating reagent in cross-coupling reactions.²¹² Zhu and colleagues outlined a protocol for a cascade reaction involving *N*-phenyl-*N*-(phenylsulfonyl)-methacrylamides **119a**, which includes $C(sp^3)-H$ activation, SO_2 elimination, and C–C bond formation. This process is conducted with simple alkanes **119b** using DCP as the only oxidant (Scheme 94).²¹³ In this metal-free process, amides with an electron-donating group on the aromatic ring afforded high yields of products **119c**. Moreover, *N*-phenyl-*N*-(phenylsulfonyl)-methacrylamide provided a good yield. When an aromatic ring with an electron-withdrawing group was employed, the yields of the products were moderate. Additionally, no expected product was observed when using amides with groups such as NO_2 or Br on the *N*-phenyl (SO_2).

Guo's team described the formation of benzylated quinoline *N*-oxides **120d**, isoquinoline *N*-oxides **120e**, and pyridine *N*-oxides **120a**, and **120b** with toluene derivatives **120c** was mediated by DCP as the sole oxidant (Scheme 95).²¹⁴ A significant decrease in the yield was observed when the reaction was performed at a higher temperature (120–130 °C) or in the presence of 3.0 equiv of the oxidant. Benzoylated products emerged under these conditions. The substitutes on the phenyl ring or pyridyl ring of the *N*-oxide compounds had no obvious effects in this cross-coupling reaction, whereas electron-rich toluenes showed higher reactivity compared to

electron-poor ones due to the higher nucleophilicity of the generated benzylic carbon radical.

3. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

In summary, the use of organic peroxides in transition-metal-free cyclization and coupling reactions marks a significant advancement in green and sustainable chemistry. This comprehensive review underscores the versatility and effectiveness of organic peroxides, such as TBHP, DTBP, TBPB, BPO, DLP, and DCP, in facilitating a wide range of oxidative transformations. These methodologies present a promising alternative to traditional transition-metal-catalyzed processes, thereby reducing the environmental impact and potential toxicity associated with heavy metals. The ability to achieve multibond cleavage and formation in a single step, driven by free radical mechanisms, highlights the efficiency of these processes. Despite the progress made, challenges remain in fully elucidating the mechanistic pathways of peroxide-mediated reactions, particularly when combined with nonmetal catalysts. Further research is needed to explore the exact roles of nonmetal catalysts and additives in these transformations. Additionally, developing novel, low-cost, and environmentally friendly methods for drug synthesis and other applications under metal-free conditions is crucial to the continued advancement of this field. The future of organic synthesis lies in the development and implementation of green and sustainable methodologies. The use of organic peroxides in transition-metal-free cyclization and coupling reactions represents a pivotal step toward achieving this goal. Moving forward, several avenues of research can be pursued to further enhance the application of organic peroxides in transition-metal-free reactions. First, a deeper understanding of the mechanistic pathways involved in peroxide-mediated transformations is essential. Advanced spectroscopic and computational techniques can be employed to elucidate the roles of free radicals, nonmetal catalysts, and additives in these reactions. Such insights will enable the rational design of more efficient and selective synthetic protocols. Second, the exploration of novel organic peroxides with tailored reactivity profiles can expand the scope of transition-metal-free oxidative transformations. By designing peroxides with specific functional groups or steric properties, chemists can achieve greater control over reaction outcomes, thereby broadening the range of accessible chemical structures with excellent regioselectivity and stereoselectivity. Third, the integration of organic peroxides with other green chemistry principles, such as solvent-free conditions, microwave-assisted synthesis, and flow chemistry, holds promise for the development of more sustainable and scalable synthetic processes. These approaches can reduce the environmental footprint of chemical manufacturing and enhance the overall efficiency of synthetic routes. Furthermore, the application of organic peroxide-mediated reactions in the synthesis of complex natural products, pharmaceuticals, and advanced materials presents a significant opportunity for innovation. By leveraging the unique reactivity of organic peroxides, chemists can develop new strategies for the construction of intricate molecular architectures, thereby addressing the current challenges in drug discovery and materials science. In conclusion, the continued exploration and optimization of organic peroxide-mediated transition-metal-free reactions will play a crucial role in advancing the field of green chemistry. By embracing these methodologies, the scientific community can contribute to the development of more sustainable and eco-

friendly chemical processes, ultimately benefiting both industry and the environment. The insights and perspectives provided in this Review are expected to inspire further research and innovation in this exciting and rapidly evolving area of organic synthesis.

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Notes

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ABBREVIATIONS

CDC	Cross-dehydrogenative coupling
DPPH	1,1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl
NCS	N-Chlorosuccinimide
NIS	N-Iodosuccinimide
KIE	Kinetic isotope effect
DABCO	1,4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane
TEMPO	2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidinyloxy

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