

Article

K₂S₂O₈-Promoted Aryl Thioamides Synthesis from Aryl Aldehydes Using Thiourea as the Sulfur Source

Yongjun Bian ^{*,†}, Xingyu Qu [†], Yongqiang Chen, Jun Li and Leng Liu

College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Jinzhong University, Yuci 030619, China; quxy@jzxy.edu.cn (X.Q.); chen Yongqiang@jzxy.edu.cn (Y.C.); hxx406@126.com (J.L.); liuleng@jzxy.edu.cn (L.L.)

* Correspondence: yjbian2013@jzxy.edu.cn; Tel.: +86-0351-398-5774

† These authors contributed equally to this work

Received: 30 July 2018; Accepted: 29 August 2018; Published: 1 September 2018



Abstract: Thiourea as a sulfur atom transfer reagent was applied for the synthesis of aryl thioamides through a three-component coupling reaction with aryl aldehydes and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) or *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMAC). The reaction could tolerate various functional groups and gave moderate to good yields of desired products under the transition-metal-free condition.

Keywords: aryl thioamides; thiourea; C-H/C-N activation; C-S formation; transition-metal-free

1. Introduction

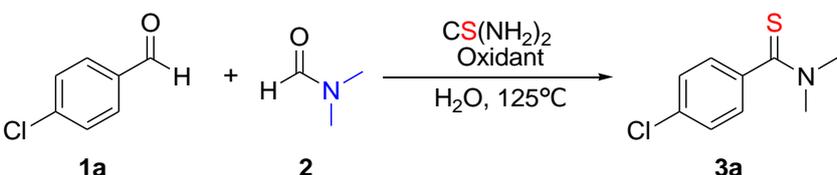
The synthesis of sulfur-containing organic compounds has received much attention in recent years, due to their wide applications in biology, chemistry, and materials science [1–10]. There are many sulfur reagents for their synthesis, such as P₂S₅ [11], Lawesson's reagent [12], disulfides [13–15], thiols [16–19], sulfonyl hydrazides [20–23], sodium sulfonate [24–28], and elemental sulfur [29–32]. Among them, both P₂S₅ and Lawesson's reagent are the most widely used reagents, and yet they have an obvious drawback of being sensitive to moisture. Therefore, much better sulfur reagents have been pursued by the organic chemists for the past decades [33]. Thioamides, as an important class of sulfur-containing organic compounds, have been synthesized by applying different sulfur reagents as the sulfur source [1,34–39]. For example, Jiang et al. [35] reported that sodium sulfide as a sulfur source was applied for the synthesis of thioamides using aldehydes and *N*-substituted formamides. More recently, a coupling reaction between quaternary ammoniums, *N*-substituted formamides, and sodium disulfide was accomplished for rapid access to aryl thioamides [36]. Thiourea as an inexpensive and easy-to-handle sulfur atom transfer reagent, was used extensively as well, mainly for the synthesis of inorganic metal sulfides [40–42], organic thioethers [43–47], and thioesters [48,49]. As far as we know, a similar reaction using thiourea and aldehydes to prepare thioamides has not yet been introduced. Hence, we want to report a new three-component coupling reaction between aryl aldehydes, thiourea as an effective sulfur source, and DMF or DMAC, for the synthesis of various aryl thioamides.

2. Results and Discussion

Initially, we treated the reaction of 4-chlorobenzaldehyde **1a** in DMF and H₂O at 125 °C in the presence of thiourea using the benzoyl peroxide (BPO) as an oxidant. After 24 h, the desired thioamide product **3a** was isolated in 58% yield (Table 1, Entry 1). Subsequently, various oxidants, which are commonly used in C-H activation, such as *p*-benzoquinone (BQ), di-*t*-butyl peroxide (DTBP), *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), K₂S₂O₈, or (NH₄)₂S₂O₈, were attempted, to optimize the reaction condition (Table 1, Entries 2–6). Among them, K₂S₂O₈ proved to be best to give the desired thioamide product **3a** in 69% yield (Table 1, Entry 5). For this transformation, H₂O played an extremely important role. No desired product **3a** was observed when increasing the concentration of H₂O to 42 M or without

addition of H₂O (Table 1, Entries 7 and 9). Slightly enhancing or reducing the loading amount of K₂S₂O₈, the yield of **3a** was not obviously changeable (Table 1, Entries 10–11). When the 20% of Cu(OAc)₂ were used as a catalyst, only 54% yield of **3a** was afforded (Table 1, Entry 12) [36]. To our delight, the yield of **3a** was further promoted to 80% when 5 equiv. of pyridine (Py) as an additive were added (Table 1, Entry 13) [35].

Table 1. Optimization of reaction conditions ^a.



Entry	Oxidant (Equiv)	Concentration of H ₂ O (M)	Yield (%) ^b
1	BPO (2)	14	58
2	BQ (2)	14	0
3	DTBP (2)	14	<5
4	TBHP (2)	14	20
5	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	14	69
6	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	14	55
7	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	42	0 ^c
8	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	8	65 ^d
9	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	0	0 ^e
10	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (3)	14	68
11	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.8)	14	61
12	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	14	54 ^f
13	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	14	80 ^g

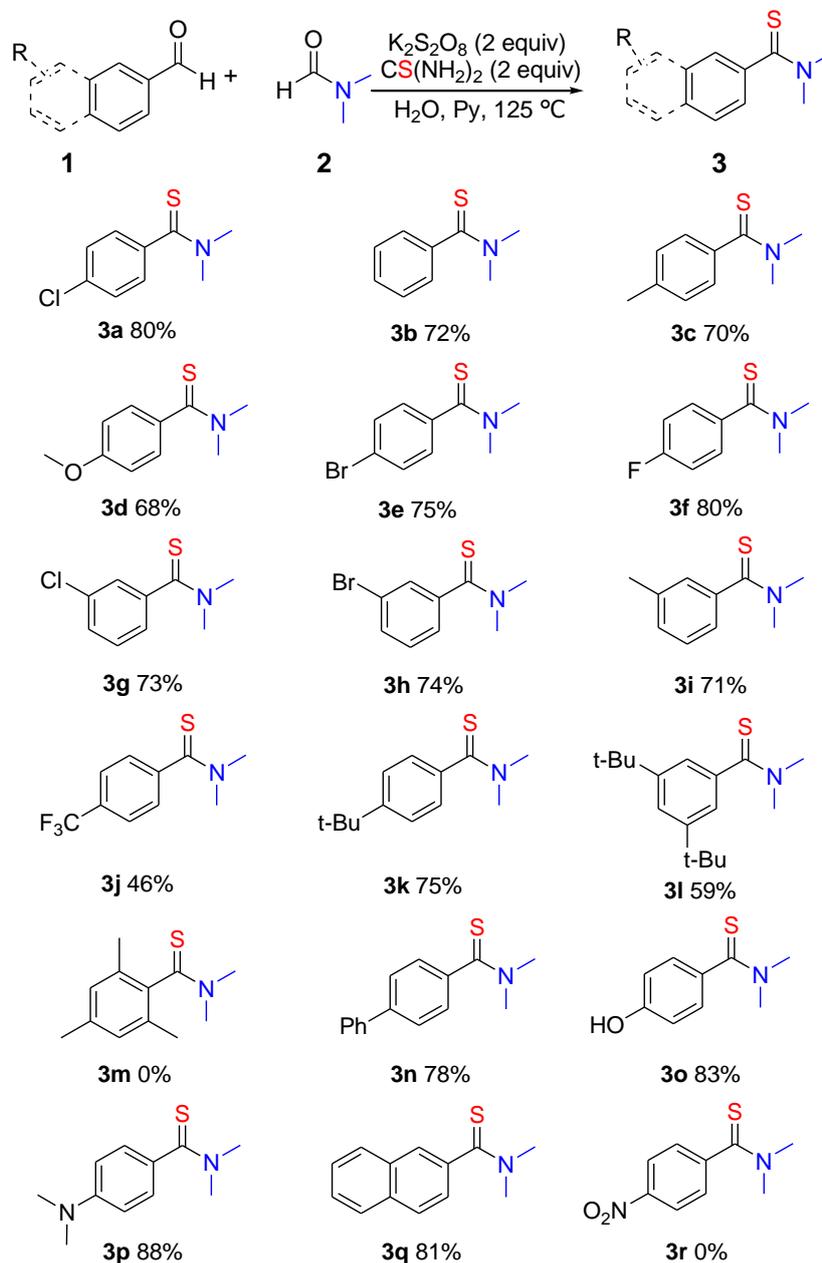
^a Condition: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2** (9.6 M), thiourea (0.5 mmol), oxidant, H₂O, 125 °C, 24 h. ^b Isolated yield. ^c 3.4 M of DMF were used. ^d 11 M of DMF were used. ^e 13 M of DMF were used. ^f 20 mol% of Cu(OAc)₂ were added. ^g 5 equiv. of pyridine (Py) were added.

After establishing the optimized conditions, this procedure was applied to access a variety of aryl thioamide derivatives. Several different aryl aldehydes could undergo this transformation smoothly in a mild condition to give the desired products **3a–r** (Scheme 1). The results indicated that many popular functional groups were well tolerated, such as methyl, methoxyl, chloro, bromo, fluoro, trifluoromethyl, and *tert*-butyl. Furthermore, the substrate bearing a sensitive hydroxy group, which was generally protected in the presence of an oxidant could be also tolerated in this transformation, and afforded the desired product **3o** in 83% yield. A substituted amino was suitable as well, and gave 88% yield of **3p**. The substituents on aromatic aldehydes had a certain influence on this transformation. When the substituents were strong electron-withdrawing groups, either lower yield of desired products, or no desired products were obtained (**3j** and **3r**). The desired product **3m** was not afforded possibly due to the steric hindrance. Moreover, our experiments demonstrated that 2-naphthaldehyde was a suitable substrate for this transformation, and gave the desired product **3q** a good yield.

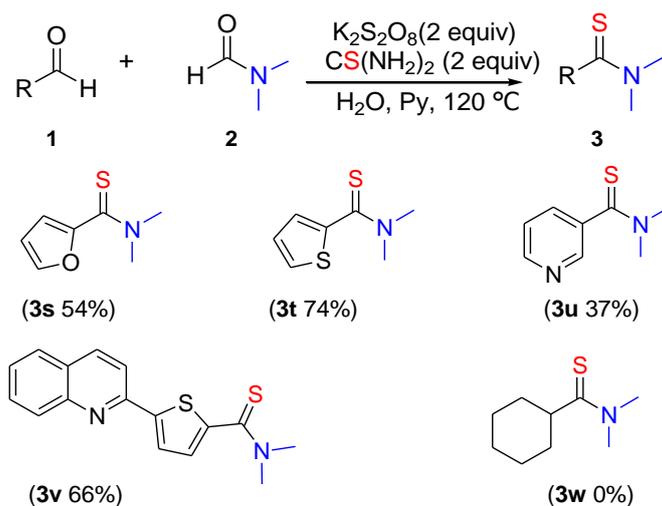
To further expand the substrate scope, some selected heterocyclic aldehydes and an aliphatic aldehyde were examined under the optimal condition (Scheme 2). Generally, five or six members heterocyclic derivatives were suitable for this transformation, such as furan-2-carbaldehyde, thiophene-2-carbaldehyde, and nicotinaldehyde, giving the corresponding thioamide products **3s**, **3t**, and **3u** 54%, 74%, and 37% yields, respectively. In addition, aliphatic aldehyde did not accomplish this transformation (**3w**).

We attempted to explore the different *N*-substituted formamides for this transformation in additional solvent. No good results were provided when the normal solvents such as *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP), 1,4-dioxane, 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), toluene, chlorobenzene (PhCl), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), ethylene glycol, were used (see Supporting Information). Unexpectedly,

N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC), which was seldom used as an amine source by the acyl C-N bond activation [37], could replace DMF to give the same desired product in good yield. Subsequently, the reactions of aryl aldehydes with thiourea in DMAC were examined under the similar reaction condition (Table 2). The results demonstrated that various groups were tolerated well, such as methyl, chloro, and bromo, and the good yields of the desired products were isolated.



Scheme 1. The substrate scope of substituted benzaldehydes. Reaction condition: aryl aldehyde **1** (0.25 mmol), thiourea (0.5 mmol), H_2O (14 M), $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (0.5 mmol) and Py (5 equiv.) in DMF (1.5 mL) at $125\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h in sealed tube. Isolated yields were given.



Scheme 2. The substrate scope of other aldehydes. Reaction condition: aldehyde **1** (0.25 mmol), thiourea (0.5 mmol), H₂O (14 M), K₂S₂O₈ (0.5 mmol), and Py (5 equiv.) in DMF (1.5 mL) at 125 °C for 24 h in sealed tube. Isolated yields were given.

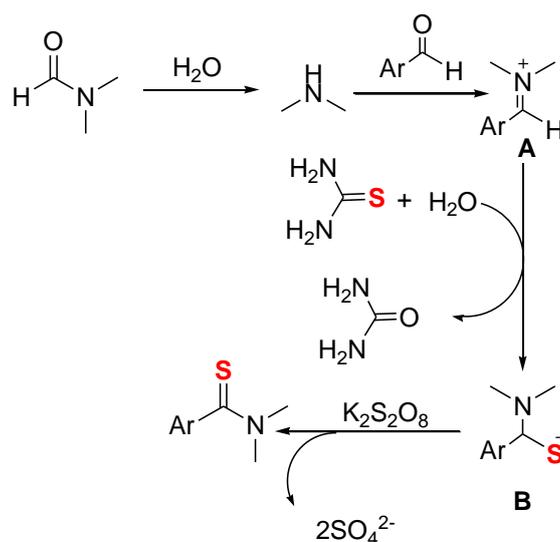
Table 2. The synthesis of aryl thioamides by DMAC ^a.

Entry	R	Yield (%) of 3 ^b
1	4-Cl	63 (3a)
2	H	52 (3b)
3	4-CH ₃	55 (3c)
4	3-Br	48 (3h)
5	3-CH ₃	51 (3i)
6	4-Ph	60 (3n)

^a Condition: **1** (0.25 mmol), **4** (1.5 mL), thiourea (0.5 mmol), K₂S₂O₈ (0.5 mmol), H₂O (0.5 mL), Py (1.25 mmol), 125 °C, 36 h. ^b Isolated yield.

In addition, extremely small amounts of amide products were observed, along with the generation of thioamide products under the optimal condition. So, two control experiments were conducted to explain the tentative reaction mechanism (see Supporting Information). First, no thioamide product was formed in the absence of thiourea, and only trace amounts of amide product were observed. Second, when the *N,N*-dimethylbenzamide replacing the benzaldehyde was manipulated under the standard condition, no desired thioamide was observed.

Based on our experimental results and previous reports [35], a proposed reaction mechanism for this transformation is described in Scheme 3. First, an aryl aldehyde undergoes a nucleophilic attack by a dimethylamine, which is from the hydrolysis of DMF, to generate iminium intermediate **A**. The iminium **A** then is directly attacked by thiourea to form the intermediate **B**, together with the release of urea [43,47,49]. Finally, intermediate **B** is oxidized by K₂S₂O₈ to afford the desired thioamide product.



Scheme 3. Plausible reaction pathway.

3. Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers, and were used without further purification. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis on silica gel 60 F254, and visualization was accomplished by irradiation with short wave UV light at 254 nm. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 or a 500 MHz spectrometer (Bruker, Karlsruhe, Germany), with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. The coupling constants J are given in Hz. Mass spectra were measured with the Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL MS spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) or GC-MS QP2010 (Comfort Technology Limited, Kowloon, Hong Kong).

A mixture of aldehyde **1** (0.25 mmol), thiourea (0.5 mmol), $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (0.5 mmol), and Py (1.25 mmol) in 2.0 mL DMF/ H_2O ($v/v = 3:1$) was stirred in a sealed tube under air at 125 °C for 24 h. After the reaction was achieved, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/petroleum ether) to afford the desired product **3**.

4-Chloro-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3a) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.36–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 199.91, 141.66, 134.60, 128.58, 127.29, 44.18, 43.32; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated (calcd.) for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNS}^+$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$ 200.02952, found 200.02971.

***N,N*-Dimethylbenzothioamide (3b)** [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.37–7.30 (m, 5H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.65, 143.69, 128.89, 128.64, 126.04, 44.44, 43.53; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 165.10 (70, M^+), 164.05 (98), 121.05 (100), 77.00 (46).

4-Methyl-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide 3c [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.23 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.55, 140.59, 138.68, 128.89, 125.89, 44.22, 43.35, 21.27; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 179.05 (80, M^+), 178.05 (100), 145.10 (50), 135.05 (98), 91.05 (45).

4-Methoxy-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3d) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.31 (d, $J = 12$ Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, $J = 12$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.31, 160.02, 135.82, 127.90, 113.51, 55.40, 44.37, 43.59; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 195.05 (M^+ , 84), 194.05 (93), 151.05 (100).

4-Bromo-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3e) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.53–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 199.79, 142.12,

131.53, 127.52, 122.73, 44.20, 44.30; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 242.95 (63, M^+), 243.90 (100), 242.95 (63), 241.90 (92), 200.85 (47), 198.90 (48), 120.00 (54).

4-Fluoro-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3f) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.32–7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.05–6.99 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.16 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 200.19, 162.66 (d, $J = 248$ Hz), 139.44 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 128.00 (d, $J = 9$ Hz), 115.33 (d, $J = 22$ Hz), 44.24, 43.45.

3-Chloro-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3g) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.33–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.18 (m, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 199.11, 144.78, 134.29, 129.76, 128.63, 125.89, 123.83, 44.18, 43.18; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 200.00 (43), 199.0 (69, M^+). 198.00 (100), 165.00 (32), 157.00 (26), 155.00 (74), 111.00 (24).

3-Bromo-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3h) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 199.01, 144.98, 131.56, 129.99, 128.68, 124.30, 122.38, 44.19, 43.19; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 244.95 (64), 243.95 (100), 242.95 (65, M^+), 241.95 (95), 200.90 (43), 198.90 (43), 120.00 (51).

3-Methyl-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3i) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.34–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.2, 143.2, 138.0, 129.1, 128.0, 126.1, 122.4, 44.0, 43.0, 21.2.

4-(Trifluoromethyl)-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3j) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.64 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 12$ Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 199.30, 146.56, 130.46 (q, $J = 32.6$ Hz), 126.02, 125.56 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 123.73 (q, $J = 270.5$ Hz), 44.07, 43.09; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 233.00 (M^+ , 71), 232.00 (100), 199.05 (37), 189.00 (64).

4-*tert*-Butyl-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3k) [37]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.38–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.64, 151.78, 140.49, 125.67, 125.22, 44.27, 43.34, 34.70, 31.23. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 221.10 (70, M^+), 220.05 (70), 147.05 (24).

3,5-di-*tert*-Butyl-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3l). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.39 (t, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 18H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 202.78, 150.70, 142.63, 122.75, 120.13, 44.21, 43.32, 34.92, 31.40. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 277.15 (86, M^+), 276.15 (100), 220.05 (80). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{NS}^+$ ($M + H$) $^+$ 278.19370, found 278.19366.

4-Benzyl-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3n) [38]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.59–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.47–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.04, 142.17, 141.56, 140.33, 128.89, 127.69, 127.10, 127.09, 126.39, 44.28, 43.32. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 241.05 (78, M^+), 240.05 (100), 197.00 (58), 181.05 (66), 152.05 (74).

4-Hydroxy-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3o) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.21–7.15 (m, 2H), 6.75–6.70 (m, 2H), 5.89 (br s, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 200.97, 156.03, 136.00, 127.45, 114.85, 43.97, 43.20; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 181.05 (M^+ , 74), 180.05 (79), 147.10 (31), 137.05 (100).

4-(Dimethylamino)-*N,N*-dimethylbenzothioamide (3p) [50]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.32 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.64, 150.54, 130.30, 127.98, 110.56, 44.19, 43.40, 39.86; GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 208.05 (M^+ , 74), 207.05 (46), 164.05 (100), 148.10 (57).

***N,N*-Dimethylnaphthalene-2-carbothioamide (3q)** [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.82–7.81 (m, 3H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.53–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.41 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 201.21, 140.60, 128.38, 128.20, 127.75, 126.78, 126.74, 124.73, 123.94, 44.27, 43.31.

***N,N*-Dimethylfuran-2-carbothioamide (3s)** [51]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.47 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz):

δ (ppm): 158.31, 151.98, 142.80, 117.27, 111.49, 44.01, 43.80. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 155.05 (100, M^+), 111.00 (70), 73.95 (27).

N,N-Dimethylthiophene-2-carbothioamide (**3t**) [35]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 7.41 (dd, $J = 4.8, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, $J = 4.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.99–6.97 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 191.63, 145.23, 129.30, 126.50, 126.45, 44.65. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 171.00 (77, M^+), 127.00 (100).

N,N-Dimethylpyridine-3-carbothioamide (**3u**) [52]. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 8.59–8.57 (m, 2H), 7.69 (dt, $J = 8.0, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 197.59, 149.63, 146.19, 133.70, 123.18, 44.25, 43.37. GC-MS (EI) m/z (%) 166.05 (85, M^+), 165.05 (88), 149.10 (35), 122.00 (100), 106.05 (38), 78.00 (62).

N,N-Dimethyl-5-(quinolin-2-yl) thiophene-2-carbothioamide (**3v**). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm): 8.15 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 4$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, $J = 40$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ (ppm): 191.56, 151.54, 148.18, 148.08, 146.86, 136.77, 130.01, 129.37, 127.82, 127.53, 127.40, 126.49, 124.94, 117.42, 44.54. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated (calcd.) for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{S}_2^+$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$ 299.06712, found 299.06706.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, we have demonstrated an efficient and transitional-metal-free method for the synthesis of aryl thioamides derived from aryl aldehydes using thiourea as a sulfur source in the presence of potassium persulfate, in DMF or DMAC. This strategy has the advantages of good functional-group tolerance and gives moderate to good yields of desired products. Further studies on synthetic applications are currently under way.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at <http://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/23/9/2225/s1>, Table S1: Screening of various solvents, Figure S1: Three control experiments for mechanism study, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, and MS spectrum of **3a–w**.

Author Contributions: X.Q. conceived and designed the experiments; Y.B. performed the experiments; Y.C. contributed reagents/materials; J.L. and L.L. wrote the paper.

Funding: This work was supported by Scientific and Technological Innovation Programs of Higher Education Institutions in Shanxi (NO. 2015176), the Doctoral Scientific Research Foundation of Jinzhong University (NO. bsjj2015213 and NO. bsjj2015214) and the Construction plan of the ‘1331 engineering’ photoelectric material innovation team of Jinzhong University.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Petrov, K.A.; Andreev, L.N. The Chemical Properties of Thioamides. *Russ. Chem. Rev.* **1971**, *40*, 505–524. [[CrossRef](#)]
2. Cremlyn, R.J. *An Introduction to Organo-Sulfur Chemistry*; Wiley & Sons: New York, NY, USA, 1996.
3. Jiang, W.; Li, Y.; Wang, Z. Heteroarenes as high performance organic semiconductors. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2013**, *42*, 6113–6127. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
4. Jagodziński, T.S. Thioamides as Useful Synthons in the Synthesis of Heterocycles. *Chem. Rev.* **2003**, *103*, 197–228. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
5. Lincke, T.; Behnken, S.; Ishida, K.; Roth, M.; Hertweck, C. Closthioamide: An Unprecedented Polythioamide Antibiotic from the Strictly Anaerobic Bacterium *Clostridium cellulolyticum*. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 2011–2013. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
6. Shen, C.; Zhang, P.F.; Sun, Q.; Bai, S.Q.; Andy Hor, T.S.; Liu, X.G. Recent advances in C–S bond formation via C–H bond functionalization and decarboxylation. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2015**, *44*, 291–314. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
7. Anthony, J.E. Functionalized Acenes and Heteroacenes for Organic Electronics. *Chem. Rev.* **2006**, *106*, 5028–5048. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

8. Ashfaq, M.; Shah, S.S.A.; Najam, T.; Ahmad, M.M.; Tabassum, R.; Rivera, G. Synthetic Thioamide, Benzimidazole, Quinolone and Derivatives with Carboxylic Acid and Ester Moieties: A Strategy in the Design of Antituberculosis Agents. *Curr. Med. Chem.* **2014**, *21*, 911–931. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
9. Zoumpoulakis, P.; Camoutsis, C.; Pairas, G.; Sokovic, M.; Glamoclija, J.; Potamitis, C.; Pitsas, A. Synthesis of novel sulfonamide-1,2,4-triazoles, 1,3,4-thiadiazoles and 1,3,4-oxadiazoles, as potential antibacterial and antifungal agents. Biological evaluation and conformational analysis studies. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2012**, *20*, 1569–1583. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
10. Guo, W.; Fu, Y.Z. A Perspective on Energy Densities of Rechargeable Li-S Batteries and Alternative Sulfur-Based Cathode Materials. *Energy Environ. Mater.* **2018**, *1*, 20–27. [[CrossRef](#)]
11. Polshettiwar, V. Phosphorus Pentasulfide (P₄S₁₀). *Synlett* **2004**, *12*, 2245–2246. [[CrossRef](#)]
12. Ozturk, T.; Ertas, E.; Mert, O. Use of Lawesson's Reagent in Organic Syntheses. *Chem. Rev.* **2007**, *107*, 5210–5278. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
13. Vásquez-Céspedes, S.; Ferry, A.; Candish, L.; Glorius, F. Heterogeneously Catalyzed Direct C–H Thiolation of Heteroarenes. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 5772–5776. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
14. Jiao, J.; Wei, L.; Ji, X.M.; Hu, M.L.; Tang, R.Y. Direct Introduction of Dithiocarbamates onto Imidazoheterocycles under Mild Conditions. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2016**, *358*, 268–275. [[CrossRef](#)]
15. Rafique, J.; Saba, S.; Rosário, A.R.; Braga, A.L. Regioselective, Solvent- and Metal-Free Chalcogenation of Imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines by Employing I₂/DMSO as the Catalytic Oxidation System. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2016**, *22*, 11854–11862. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
16. Ding, Q.P.; Cao, B.P.; Yuan, J.J.; Liu, X.J.; Peng, Y.Y. Synthesis of thioethers via metal-free reductive coupling of tosylhydrazones with thiols. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2011**, *9*, 748–751. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
17. Ravi, C.; Mohan, D.C.; Adimurthy, S. *N*-Chlorosuccinimide-Promoted Regioselective Sulfenylation of Imidazoheterocycles at Room Temperature. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 2978–2981. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
18. Hiebel, M.A.; Berteina-Raboin, S. Iodine-catalyzed regioselective sulfenylation of imidazoheterocycles in PEG₄₀₀. *Green Chem.* **2015**, *17*, 937–944. [[CrossRef](#)]
19. Siddaraju, Y.; Prabhu, K.R. Iodine-Catalyzed Cross Dehydrogenative Coupling Reaction: A Regioselective Sulfenylation of Imidazoheterocycles Using Dimethyl Sulfoxide as an Oxidant. *J. Org. Chem.* **2016**, *81*, 7838–7846. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
20. Yang, F.L.; Tian, S.K. Iodine-Catalyzed Regioselective Sulfenylation of Indoles with Sulfonyl Hydrazides. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 4929–4932. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
21. Yang, Y.; Zhang, S.; Tang, L.; Hu, Y.B.; Zha, Z.G.; Wang, Z.Y. Catalyst-free thiolation of indoles with sulfonyl hydrazides for the synthesis of 3-sulfenylindoles in water. *Green Chem.* **2016**, *18*, 2609–2613. [[CrossRef](#)]
22. Singh, R.; Allam, K.B.; Singh, N.; Kumari, K.; Singh, S.K. A Direct Metal-Free Decarboxylative Sulfonyl Functionalization (DSF) of Cinnamic Acids to α , β -Unsaturated Phenyl Sulfones. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 2656–2659. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
23. Senadi, G.C.; Guo, B.C.; Hu, W.P.; Wang, J.J. Iodine-promoted cyclization of *N*-propynyl amides and *N*-allyl amides via sulfonylation and sulfenylation. *Chem. Commun.* **2016**, *52*, 11410–11413. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
24. Handa, S.; Fennewald, J.C.; Lipshutz, B.H. Aerobic Oxidation in Nanomicelles of Aryl Alkynes, in Water at Room Temperature. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 3432–3435. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
25. Rao, W.H.; Shi, B.F. Copper(II)-Catalyzed Direct Sulfonylation of C(sp²)-H Bonds with Sodium Sulfinates. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 2784–2787. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
26. Ding, Y.; Wu, W.; Zhao, W.; Li, Y.; Xie, P.; Huang, Y.; Liu, Y.; Zhou, A. Generation of thioethers via direct C–H functionalization with sodium benzenesulfinate as a sulfur source. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2016**, *14*, 1428–1431. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
27. Xiao, F.; Chen, S.; Tian, J.; Huang, H.; Liu, Y.; Deng, G.J. Chemoselective cross-coupling reaction of sodium sulfinates with phenols under aqueous conditions. *Green Chem.* **2016**, *18*, 1538–1546. [[CrossRef](#)]
28. Guo, Y.J.; Lu, S.; Tian, L.L.; Huang, E.L.; Hao, X.Q.; Zhu, X.J.; Shao, T.; Song, M.P. Iodine-Mediated Difunctionalization of Imidazopyridines with Sodium Sulfinates: Synthesis of Sulfones and Sulfides. *J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, *83*, 338–349. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
29. Zhou, Z.; Liu, Y.; Chen, J.F.; Yao, E.; Cheng, J. Multicomponent Coupling Reactions of Two *N*-Tosyl Hydrazones and Elemental Sulfur: Selective Denitrogenation Pathway toward Unsymmetric 2,5-Disubstituted 1,3,4-Thiadiazoles. *Org. Lett.* **2016**, *18*, 5268–5271. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

30. Ravi, C.; Reddy, N.N.K.; Pappula, V.; Samanta, S.; Adimurthy, S. Copper-Catalyzed Three-Component System for Arylsulfonylation of Imidazopyridines with Elemental Sulfur. *J. Org. Chem.* **2016**, *81*, 9964–9972. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
31. Zhang, J.R.; Liao, Y.Y.; Deng, J.C.; Feng, K.Y.; Zhang, M.; Ning, Y.Y.; Lin, Z.W.; Tang, R.Y. Oxidative dual C–H thiolation of imidazopyridines with ethers or alkanes using elemental sulphur. *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 7784–7787. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
32. Zhu, X.M.; Yang, Y.Z.; Xiao, G.H.; Song, J.X.; Liang, Y.; Deng, G.B. Double C–S bond formation via C–H bond functionalization: Synthesis of benzothiazoles and naphtho[2,1-*d*]thiazoles from *N*-substituted arylamines and elemental sulfur. *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 11917–11920. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
33. Bergman, J. Comparison of Two Reagents for Thionations. *Synthesis* **2018**, *50*, 2323–2328. [[CrossRef](#)]
34. Hurd, R.N.; Delamater, G. The Preparation and Chemical Properties of Thionamides. *Chem. Rev.* **1961**, *61*, 45–86. [[CrossRef](#)]
35. Wei, J.P.; Li, Y.M.; Jiang, X.F. Aqueous Compatible Protocol to Both Alkyl and Aryl Thioamide Synthesis. *Org. Lett.* **2016**, *18*, 340–343. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
36. Zhou, Z.; Yu, J.T.; Zhou, Y.N.; Jiang, Y.; Cheng, J. Aqueous MCRs of quaternary ammoniums, *N*-substituted formamides and sodium disulfide towards aryl thioamides. *Org. Chem. Front.* **2017**, *4*, 413–416. [[CrossRef](#)]
37. Xu, K.; Li, Z.Y.; Cheng, F.Y.; Zuo, Z.Z.; Wang, T.; Wang, M.C.; Liu, L.T. Transition-Metal-Free Cleavage of C–C Triple Bonds in Aromatic Alkynes with S₈ and Amides Leading to Aryl Thioamides. *Org. Lett.* **2018**, *20*, 2228–2231. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
38. Kumar, S.; Vanjari, R.; Guntreddi, T.; Singh, K.N. Sulfur promoted decarboxylative thioamidation of carboxylic acids using formamides as amine proxy. *Tetrahedron* **2016**, *72*, 2012–2017. [[CrossRef](#)]
39. Nguyen, T.B.; Tran, M.Q.; Ermolenko, L.; Al-Mourabit, A. Three-Component Reaction between Alkynes, Elemental Sulfur, and Aliphatic Amines: A General, Straightforward, and Atom Economical Approach to Thioamides. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 310–313. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
40. Rao, M.M.; Jayalakshmi, M.; Reddy, R.S. Time-selective Hydrothermal Synthesis of SnS Nanorods and Nanoparticles by Thiourea Hydrolysis. *Chem. Lett.* **2004**, *33*, 1044–1045. [[CrossRef](#)]
41. Jayalakshmi, M.; Rao, M.M. Synthesis of zinc sulphide nanoparticles by thiourea hydrolysis and their characterization for electrochemical capacitor applications. *J. Power Sources* **2006**, *157*, 624–629. [[CrossRef](#)]
42. Zhang, K.; Han, Q.; Wang, X.; Zhu, J. One-Step Synthesis of Bi₂S₃/BiOX and Bi₂S₃/(BiO)₂CO₃ Heterojunction Photocatalysts by Using Aqueous Thiourea Solution as Both Solvent and Sulfur Source. *ChemistrySelect* **2016**, *1*, 6136–6145. [[CrossRef](#)]
43. Manivel, P.; Prabakaran, K.; Krishnakumar, V.; Khan, F.N.; Maiyalagan, T. Thiourea-Mediated Regioselective Synthesis of Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Diversified Thioethers. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* **2014**, *53*, 7866–7870. [[CrossRef](#)]
44. Niu, H.; Xia, C.; Qu, G.; Wu, S.; Jiang, Y.; Jin, X.; Guo, H. Microwave-Promoted “One-Pot” Synthesis of 4-Nitrobenzylthioinosine Analogues Using Thiourea as a Sulfur Precursor. *Chem. Asian J.* **2012**, *7*, 45–49. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
45. Firouzabadi, H.; Iranpoor, N.; Gholinejad, M. One-Pot Thioetherification of Aryl Halides Using Thiourea and Alkyl Bromides Catalyzed by Copper(I) Iodide Free from Foul-Smelling Thiols in Wet Polyethylene Glycol (PEG 200). *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2010**, *352*, 119–124. [[CrossRef](#)]
46. Mondal, J.; Modak, A.; Dutta, A.; Basu, S.; Jha, S.N.; Bhattacharyya, D.; Bhaumik, A. One-pot thioetherification of aryl halides with thiourea and benzylbromide in water catalyzed by Cu-grafted furfural imine-functionalized mesoporous SBA-15. *Chem. Commun.* **2012**, *48*, 8000–8002. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
47. Ma, X.; Yu, L.; Su, C.; Yang, Y.; Li, H.; Xu, Q. Efficient Generation of C–S Bonds via a By-Product-Promoted Selective Coupling of Alcohols, Organic Halides, and Thiourea. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2017**, *359*, 1649–1655. [[CrossRef](#)]
48. Abbasi, M.; Khalifeh, R. One-pot odourless synthesis of thioesters via in situ generation of thiobenzoic acids using benzoic anhydrides and thiourea. *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, *11*, 1265–1273. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
49. Swain, S.P.; Chou, Y.; Hou, D. Thioesterifications Free of Activating Agent and Thiol: A Three-Component Reaction of Carboxylic Acids, Thioureas, and Michael Acceptors. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2015**, *357*, 2644–2650. [[CrossRef](#)]

50. Bezgubenko, L.V.; Pipko, S.E.; Sinitsa, A.D. Dichlorothiophosphoric acid and dichlorothiophosphate anion as thionating agents in the synthesis of thioamides. *Russ. J. Gen. Chem.* **2008**, *78*, 1341–1344. [[CrossRef](#)]
51. Meltzer, R.I.; Lewis, A.D.; King, J.A. Antitubercular Substances. IV. Thioamides. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1955**, *77*, 4062–4066. [[CrossRef](#)]
52. Perregaard, J.; Lawesson, S.O. Studies on Organophosphorous Compounds. XI.* Oxidation of Aromatic Compounds with Sulfur in Hexamethylphosphoric Triamide (HMPA). A New Method for Preparation of *N,N*-Dimethylthiocarboxamides. *Acta Chem. Scand. B* **1975**, *29*, 604–608.

Sample Availability: **Sample Availability:** Not available.



© 2018 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).