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Nb₂O₅/H₂O₂ as an efficient catalyst for primary alcohols oxidation under visible-light conditions

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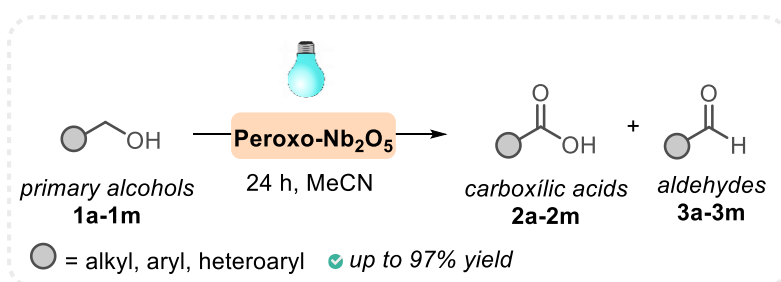
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ABSTRACT

Oxidation reactions are extremely important in organic synthesis, since they are widely used in total syntheses of several bioactive compounds.¹ An example is Luzopeptin A, a drug with antibiotic and antitumor activities, whose total synthesis involves a selective oxidation process of an alcohol to a carboxylic acid. Furthermore, aldehydes/carboxylic acids are widely used in chemical, pharmaceutical and functional materials industries.² Aiming to promote the oxidation of alcohols, most of the synthetic methodologies in the literature involves drastic conditions (highly acidic media, temperatures and large amount of oxidants).³ As alternative, the modification of Nb₂O₅ with peroxide groups results in photosensitive materials, when promoted to the excited state by the absorption of visible-light, injecting electrons into the semiconductor conduction band. Those electrons can reduce O₂ molecules, releasing superoxide ions, which afford the oxidation of organic matter.⁴ We present here the use of modified Nb₂O₅ in the visible light-promoted oxidation of primary alcohols (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Oxidation of primary alcohols with Nb₂O₅/H₂O₂

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