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Benjamin WerthSenior Science Editor

Dear Benjamin Werth,

I submit for your consideration the following paper, entitled "Efficient Synthesis of Polyfunctionalized Benzenes in Water via Persulfate-promoted Benzannulation of α,β -unsaturated compounds and alkynes".

All authors have agreed to the content of this manuscript in its submitted form. This manuscript is exclusively submitted to *JOVE*.

The work describes a metal-free strategy to access unprecedented polyfunctionalized benzenes from alkynes and α,β -unsaturated compounds using ammonium persulfate in water. The method has a broad scope and uses abundant and inexpensive chemical feedstocks.

Respectfully yours,

Airton Salles