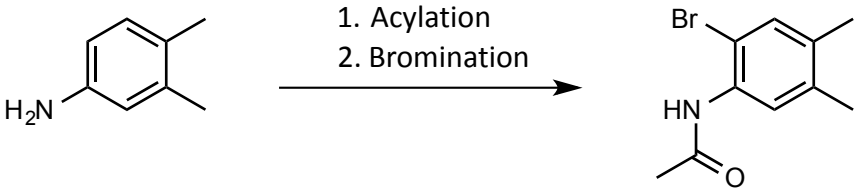
Synthetic Studies Toward 2-Bromo-4,5-dimethylaniline En Route to Hunanamycin A



We have initiated studies toward an optimized synthesis of 2-bromo-4,5-dimethylaniline; this substituted aniline derivative will likely serve as the requisite starting material in route to Hunanamycin A (HA). Our studies will commence with a two-step synthesis of *N*-2-bromo-4,5-dimethylphenylacetamide from 3,4-dimethylaniline based on the work of Guo et al. We plan to employ relatively inexpensive chemicals and operationally simple procedures; ideally, this will create an accessible, user friendly, and reproducible synthetic protocol. This work will enable longer-term project goals toward the synthesis of HA; an antibacterial natural product found in a marine derived *Bacillus hunanensi.*

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