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Iron-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of benzimidazoles from 2-nitroanilines and benzylic alcohols

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$$\text{Ar-CH}_2\text{OH} \quad + \quad \text{R} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} \qquad \qquad \text{MH}_2 \qquad \qquad \text{dppf} \qquad \qquad \text{R} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} \qquad \qquad \text{N} \qquad \text{Ar}$$

$$R = H, F, CI, Br, OCH_3, CF_3$$

We herein report a new efficient method for the synthesis of benzimidazoles with hydrogen transfer procedure. This method involves alcohol oxidation, nitro reduction, condensation and dehydrogenation in a cascade.

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