Carboxylation of Unprotected Indole Derivatives with Carbon Dioxide

**Significance:** A practical and straightforward method for the preparation of indole-3-carboxylic acids has been reported. Deprotonation with LiOt-Bu under an atmospheric pressure of carbon dioxide furnishes a variety of indole-3-carboxylic acids in high yield.

**Comment:** The described reaction is very versatile since it tolerates various functional groups and has therefore a broad substrate scope. According to the authors, the large excess of LiOt-Bu suppresses the undesired decarboxylation side reaction.

**Selected examples:**

- **CO2H**
  - R1 = H, Me, OH, OMe, OBn, CN, F, Br
  - R2 = H, Me, Ph
  - 95% yield
  - 92% yield
  - 90% yield
  - 83% yield
  - 88% yield
  - 80% yield
  - 96% yield
  - 94% yield
  - 31% yield