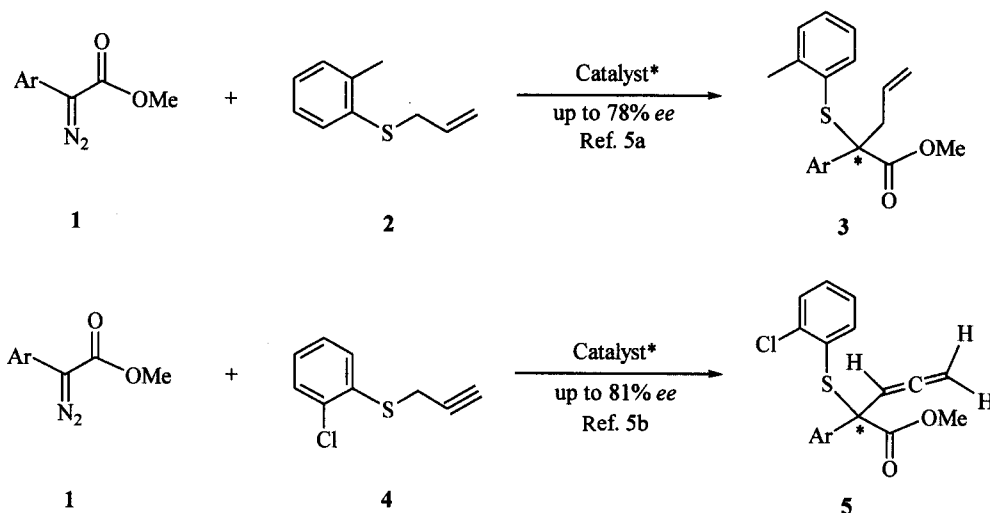
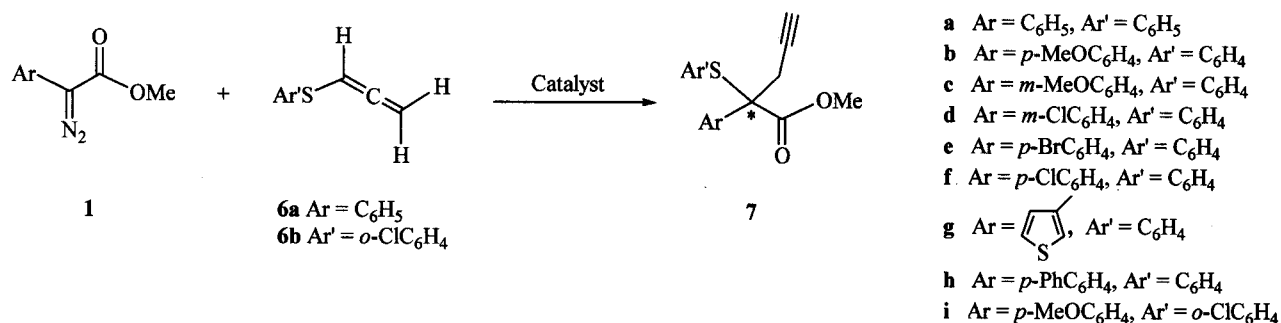


Scheme 2



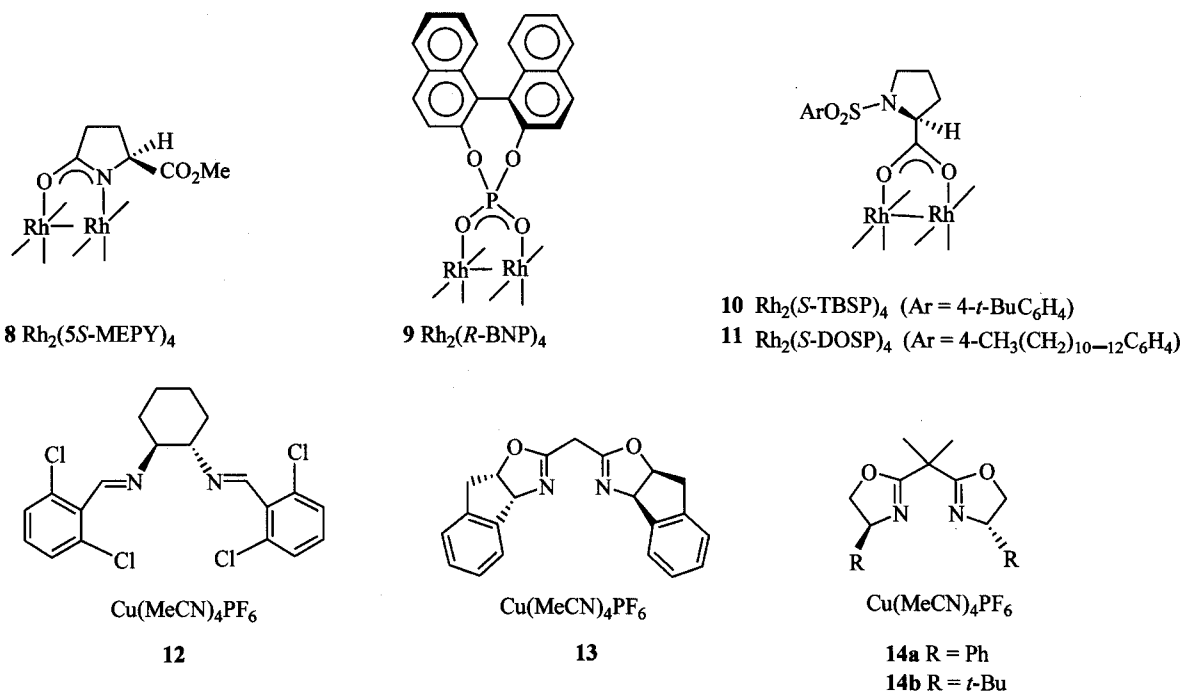
Scheme 3

**Table 1** Enantioselectivity of the reaction of *p*-methoxyphenyldiazoacetate and allenic aryl sulfide with chiral Cu(I) or Rh(II) catalyst

Entry	Catalyst ^a	Sulfide (Ar' =)	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	ee ^b (%)	Yield ^c (%)
1	8	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	8	0	40
2	9	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	1	0	38
3	10	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	0.1	34	45
4	11	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	0.1	30	47
5	12	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	16	6	49
6	13	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	12	12	69
7	14a	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	12	41	92
8	14b	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	r.t.	16	40	79
9	14b	<i>o</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	r.t.	12	28	72
10	10	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	0.5	37	51	—
11	14b	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	0	30	46	63
12	11	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	-23	4.5	47	48
13	10	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	-23	4.5	44	50
14	11	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	-40	14	44	< 10
15	11	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	-40	14	36	< 10
16	11	C ₆ H ₅	<i>n</i> -Hexane	-50—0	10	55	79
17	14b	C ₆ H ₅	<i>n</i> -Hexane	r.t.	12	20	31
18	11	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ Cl ₂	0	1	23	49
19	10	C ₆ H ₅	<i>n</i> -Hexane	-50—0	10	36	65

^a For Cu(I) catalyst: chiral ligand (11 mol%) was mixed with Cu(MeCN)₄PF₆ (10 mol%); for Rh(II) catalyst: 0.5 mol% catalyst is used; ^b ee values were determined by chiral HPLC; Chiralcel OJ; hexane/*iso*-propanol; ^c isolated yields.

Scheme 4



These results are similar to what was observed in our previous studies with allyl and propargyl sulfides. We then focused on the catalysts **10**, **11**, **14a** and **14b**, and proceeded to evaluate the effect of temperature, solvent and the structure of sulfide. Since the aryl sulfide with *ortho* substituent in the phenyl ring gave superior results, we expected the sulfide **6b** might give better enantioselectivity. However, we observed an opposite result, the *ee* value dropped from 40% to 28% when the sulfide was changed from **2a** to **2b** (compare Entries 8 and 9). The temperature can generally enhance the enantioselectivity, but the reaction becomes slower at lower temperature. For the Cu(I) catalysts, even the reactions at room temperature take long time (12–16 h). Finally, the solvent is found to have an effect on the enantioselectivity. Nonpolar sol-

vent such as *n*-hexane can enhance the *ee* values (compare Entries 15 and 16). Thus, it can be concluded that the reaction with the catalysts **10**, **11**, **14a** or **14b**, in *n*-hexane at 0 °C can give the optimized results in terms of enantioselectivity and the reaction time. Then this condition was applied to other methyl aryldiazoacetates, and the results are summarized in Table 2.

The data collected in Table 2 show that moderately high enantioselectivity could be achieved under the optimized condition for diazo substrates. There is apparent effect of the substituent in the phenyl ring on the enantioselectivity. The diazo substrate with *meta* substituent gave diminished *ee* % (Entries 4, 6 and 7).

In conclusion, we have carried out the first investigation on catalytic asymmetric [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement

Table 2 Enantioselectivity of the reaction of aryldiazoacetate **1** and allenic phenyl sulfide **6a** with chiral Cu(I) and Rh(II) catalyst

Entry	Diazo compound 1 (Ar =)	Catalyst ^a	Reaction time (h)	<i>ee</i> ^b (%)	$[\alpha]_D^{20}$ (c, CHCl ₃)	Yield (%)
1	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	14b /Cu(MeCN) ₄ PF ₆	16	40	-34.6 (0.46)	67
2	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	10 ^c	24	36	-31.2 (0.57)	65
3	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	10	55	-42.9 (0.62)	79
4	<i>m</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	24	10	-10.8 (0.33)	32
5	C ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	7	33	+25.6 (0.45)	58
6	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	14b /Cu(MeCN) ₄ PF ₆	24	27	-19.5 (0.6)	50
7	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	7	22	+14.1 (0.46)	50
8	<i>p</i> -BrC ₆ H ₄	14b /Cu(MeCN) ₄ PF ₆	24	32	-27.8 (0.77)	65
9	<i>p</i> -BrC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	7	32	+25.4 (0.54)	56
10	<i>p</i> -PhC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	7	35	+40.3 (0.33)	49
11	<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	11 ^c	7	38	+23.2 (0.7)	56
12	1-Thienyl	11 ^c	18	51	-30.9 (0.53)	64

^a Bisoxazoline ligand (11 mol%) was mixed with Cu(MeCN)₄PF₆ (10 mol%); ^b *ee* values determined by chiral HPLC using the condition given in Table 1; ^c 0.5 mol% catalyst is used.

of sulfur ylides generated from carbenoids and allenic 2-methylphenyl sulfide, and obtained up to 55% *ee* value. Further investigation is needed in order to improve the enantioselectivity for this type of reaction.

Experimental

General consideration

All reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere in a flame-dried reaction flask, and the components were added via Syringe. All solvents were distilled prior to use. For chromatography, 100–200 mesh silica gel (Qindao, China) was employed. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded respectively at 300 and 75 MHz with Varian Mercury 300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported using tetramethylsilane as internal standard. IR spectra were recorded with a Nicolet 5MX-S infrared spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a VG ZAB-MS mass spectrometer. Aryl diazoacetates and $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{PF}_6$ were prepared according to the reported procedure.⁷ Chiral bisoxazoline ligands, and chiral Rh(II) catalysts $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-TBSP})_4$ (**10**) and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-DOSP})_4$ (**11**) were purchased from Aldrich. HPLC analysis was performed at HP 1100 apparatus with Chiracel OJ column.

Typical procedure for the reaction of aryl diazoacetate with sulfide catalyzed by Cu(I) complex

In nitrogen atmosphere, $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{PF}_6$ (6.25×10^{-3} mmol, 2.3 mg) and ligand **14b** (7.5×10^{-3} mmol, 2.2 mg) were added to a 25 mL round-bottom flask. Dry *n*-hexane (4 mL) was introduced and the solution was stirred for 1 h. To this slightly blue solution was then added aryl sulfide **6a** ($\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_4$, 9.4×10^{-2} mmol, 13.9 mg) in *n*-hexane (1 mL). The flask was put into an ice bath, then methyl *p*-methoxyphenyldiazoacetate (**1**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$) (6.25×10^{-2} mmol, 12.9 mg) in dry *n*-hexane (10 mL) was added via a syringe over 30 min. The solution was stirred for additional 10 h. Solvent was removed by evaporation and the green oily residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **7b** (*ee* = 44%, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_4$) as oil (13.8 mg, 67%).

Typical procedure for the reaction of aryl diazoacetate with sulfide catalyzed by Rh(II) complex

In nitrogen atmosphere, catalyst **11** (3.13×10^{-4} mmol, 0.6 mg) was added to a 25 mL round-bottom flask. Dry *n*-hexane (4 mL) was introduced and the solution was stirred for 1 h. To the slightly blue solution was then added aryl sulfide **6a** ($\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_4$, 9.4×10^{-2} mmol, 13.9 mg) in *n*-hexane (1 mL). The flask was put into an ice bath, then methyl *p*-methoxyphenyldiazoacetate (**1**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$) (6.25×10^{-2} mmol, 12.9 mg) in dry *n*-hexane (10 mL) was added via a syringe over 30 min. The

solution was stirred for additional 10 h. Solvent was removed by evaporation and the green oily residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **7b** (*ee* = 55%, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_4$) as oil (16.1 mg, 79%).

Methyl 2-phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (**7a**, $\text{Ar} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$)

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.10 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dq, $J = 16.8$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 7.22–7.39 (m, 10 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 27.92, 52.90, 62.98, 72.02, 79.74, 127.17, 127.89, 128.12, 128.72, 129.74, 129.89, 137.04, 138.24, 171.56; IR (KBr) ν : 2122 (w), 1732 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 296 (M^+ , 12), 237 (8), 187 (58), 155 (42), 128 (67), 105 (70), 86 (100); HPLC (254 nm) $t_{\text{R}} = 42.393$ min, $t_{\text{R}} = 57.418$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 296.0871, found 296.0870.

Methyl 2-(p-methoxy) phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (**7b**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.10 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dq, $J = 16.8$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 6.82–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.49 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.82, 52.74, 55.04, 62.38, 71.92, 79.86, 128.42, 128.62, 128.85, 128.95, 129.59, 130.03, 136.89, 171.60; IR (KBr) ν : 2121 (w), 1731 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 326 (M^+ , 5), 287 (17), 217 (100), 185 (46), 157 (80), 135 (47); HPLC (254 nm) $t_{\text{R}} = 39.343$ min, $t_{\text{R}} = 64.070$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ 326.0976, found 326.0983.

Methyl 2-(m-methoxy) phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (**7c**, $\text{Ar} = m\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.11 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dq, $J = 16.9$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.747 (s, 3H), 6.81–6.85 (m, 1H), 6.92–6.95 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.40 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.89, 52.91, 55.16, 62.92, 72.03, 79.73, 113.21, 119.41, 128.70, 129.06, 129.73, 129.87, 137.00, 139.71, 171.44; IR (KBr) ν : 2121 (w), 1732 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 326 (M^+ , 26), 287 (19), 267 (13), 227 (10), 217 (100), 185 (97), 158 (85), 128 (44); HPLC (254 nm) $t_{\text{R}} = 38.426$ min, $t_{\text{R}} = 42.242$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ 326.0976; found 326.0979.

Methyl 2-(m-chloro) phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (**7d**, $\text{Ar} = m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.12 (dd, $J = 2.7$,

2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dq, $J = 16.8$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 7.27—7.39 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.95, 53.04, 62.46, 72.30, 79.28, 125.56, 127.66, 128.09, 128.85, 129.30, 129.47, 130.00, 134.06, 137.06, 140.22, 170.99; IR (KBr) ν : 2127 (w), 1704 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 330 (M^+ , 22.5), 291 (13.8), 273 (6), 231 (11), 221 (58), 189 (53), 162 (34), 155 (39), 142 (44), 127 (58), 110 (100); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 37.376$ min, $t_R = 43.787$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{SCl}$ 330.0481; found 330.0478.

Methyl 2-(p-bromo)phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (7e, Ar = p-BrC₆H₄, Ar' = C₆H₅)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.10 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dq, $J = 16.8$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 7.24—7.47 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.93, 52.99, 62.38, 72.28, 79.40, 122.07, 128.88, 129.17, 129.58, 129.97, 131.21, 137.21, 137.03, 137.28, 171.09; IR (KBr) ν : 2123 (w), 1732 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 374 (M^+ , 20), 315 (10), 267 (100), 235 (45), 201 (270), 185 (69), 155 (36); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 19.817$ min, $t_R = 24.004$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{SBr}$ 373.9976; found 373.9984.

Methyl 2-(p-chloro)phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (7f, Ar = p-ClC₆H₄, Ar' = C₆H₅)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.10 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dq, $J = 15.6$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 7.13—7.40 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.99, 53.00, 62.34, 72.25, 79.44, 128.26, 128.87, 129.62, 129.97, 133.84, 136.31, 136.74, 137.03, 171.16; IR (KBr) ν : 2121 (w), 1733 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 330 (M^+ , 17), 298 (6), 271 (12), 231 (6), 221 (97), 189 (69), 162 (50), 139 (100), 110 (46); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 41.098$ min, $t_R = 80.051$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{SCl}$ 330.0481, found 330.0466.

Methyl 2-(3-thiophen)-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (7g, Ar = m-C₄H₃S, Ar' = C₆H₅)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.07 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dq, $J = 17.3$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19—7.39 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.86, 52.94, 59.73, 71.97, 79.85, 123.43, 125.44, 127.52, 128.74, 129.83, 130.02, 136.96, 138.48, 170.85; IR (KBr) ν : 2098 (w), 1732 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 302 (M^+ , 9), 243 (9), 193 (58), 161 (52), 134 (46), 111 (100); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 32.201$ min, $t_R = 40.668$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ 302.0435, found 302.0436.

Methyl 2-(p-phenyl)phenyl-2-thiophenyl-4-pentynoate (7h, Ar = p-PhC₆H₄, Ar' = C₆H₅)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.11 (dd, $J = 2.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dq, $J = 16.9$, 2.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 7.18—7.70 (m, 14H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 27.86, 52.89, 62.74, 72.14, 79.74, 126.69, 126.92, 127.41, 127.66, 128.73, 129.75, 129.88, 137.03, 137.14, 140.09, 140.55, 171.47; IR (KBr) ν : 2123 (w), 1732 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 372 (M^+ , 5), 263 (83), 231 (24), 203 (45), 181 (23), 152 (15), 86 (99), 84 (98), 47 (100); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 20.788$ min, $t_R = 24.984$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 372.1184, found 372.1179.

Methyl 2-(p-methoxyl)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-4-pentynoate (7i, Ar = p-MeOC₆H₄, Ar' = 2-ClC₆H₅)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.05 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 6.84—7.46 (m, 7H), 8.00—8.03 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ : 28.81, 52.97, 55.21, 62.59, 71.97, 79.91, 113.41, 114.21, 126.84, 128.98, 129.52, 130.09, 130.87, 132.62, 138.93, 140.73, 171.31; IR (KBr) ν : 1735 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV) m/z (%): 360 (M^+ , 1.4), 301 (3), 217 (100), 189 (8), 185 (27), 157 (34), 151 (11), 115 (21); HPLC (254 nm) $t_R = 43.972$ min, $t_R = 71.765$ min. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3\text{SCl}$ 360.0594, found 360.0587.

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