

HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 67, No. 2, 2006, pp. 807 - 814. © The Japan Institute of Heterocyclic Chemistry  
Received, 1st September, 2005, Accepted, 27th October, 2005, Published online, 28th October, 2005. COM-05-S(T)78

## NOVEL METHODS OF SYNTHESIZING NAPHTHO[1,2-*c*]FURAN-1,3-DIONE AND BENZO[*e*]ISOINDOLE-1,3-DIONE

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*Dedicated to Professor Barry M. Trost on the occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday*

**Abstract** – Convenient methods of synthesizing naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione from phenylbutyric acid derivatives have been established. Naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione were obtained respectively from 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and 4,5-dihydrobenzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione by aromatization with 10% Pd-C in AcOH under mild conditions. In addition, benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione derivatives were obtained from 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione by imidation and simultaneous aromatization with primary amine in AcOH in one pot.

## INTRODUCTION

Naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione are useful intermediates for medicines, agrochemicals and chemicals, e.g. 6-methacryloxyethyl 1,2,6-naphthalenetetracarboxylic cyclic anhydride, which is used as a dental adhesive,<sup>1</sup> and 2-[1-(3-ethoxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylsulfonylethyl]-benzo[*e*]isoindoline-1,3-dione, which reduces levels of TNF  $\alpha$  and inhibits PDE IV in mammals.<sup>2</sup>

Conventionally, several methods have been reported for the synthesis of naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione. For example, ethyl 3-carboethoxy-2-oxo-5-phenylpentanoate, derived from phenylbutyric acid, was cyclized to obtain 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione, then aromatized by heating at 250°C with sulfur to obtain naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione.<sup>3</sup>  $\alpha$ -Bromostyrene was cyclized with maleic anhydride to afford 1,2-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione, then aromatized by heating at 250°C with sulfur to give naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione.<sup>4</sup> 1-Chloromethyl-2-methylnaphthalene, derived from 2-methylnaphthalene, was heated at 240°C under elevated pressure with sodium bichromate to yield

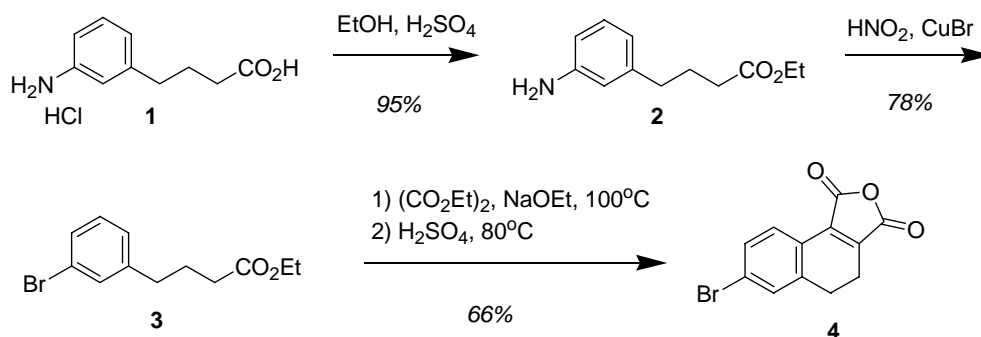
1,2-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid,<sup>5</sup> then reacted with acetic anhydride to give naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione. However, all of these methods require extremely high temperatures (*ca.* 240-250 °C), so they are difficult to use in the case of unstable compounds.

Several methods have been developed for aromatization by dehydrogenation,<sup>6</sup> e.g. using sulfur, selenium, platinum, palladium, aluminum chloride, ammonium ceric nitrate (CAN), chloranil, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyanobenzoquinone (DDQ), trityl tetrafluoroborate, diphenylpicrylhydrazyl, etc. Hence, we planned the development of novel methods to obtain naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione, which is normally produced by amidation, under mild and convenient conditions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Synthesis of 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione

Among several methods of synthesizing naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione, we focused on that *via* 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione, because of its inexpensive starting material and reagents. 7-Bromo-4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (**4**), a new compound, was prepared from 4-(3-aminophenyl)butanoic acid hydrochloride (**1**) as shown in Scheme 1. Ethyl 4-(3-bromophenyl)butanoate (**3**) was reacted with diethyl oxalate and base, then acid was added to the reaction mixture to give **4**.

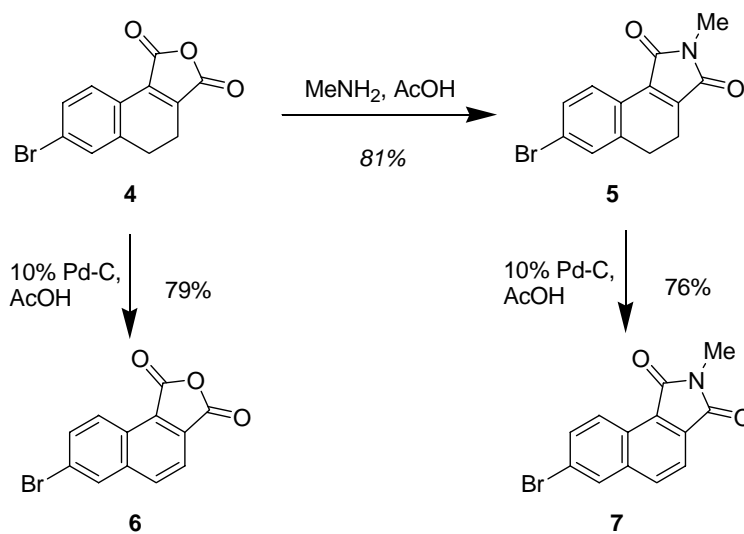


**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of 7-bromo-4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione

### 2. Aromatization to naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione using 10% Pd-C

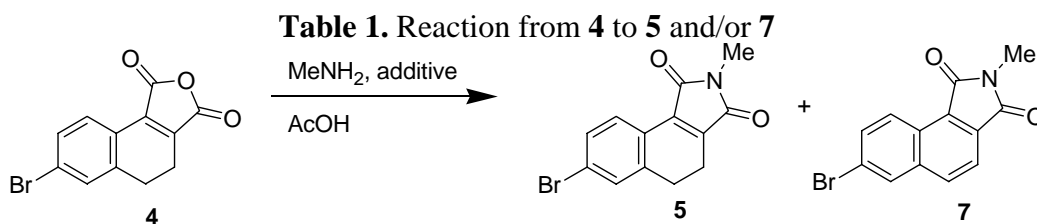
To avoid the extremely high temperature needed for aromatization using sulfur, we studied DDQ and 10% Pd-C to obtain 7-bromonaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (**6**) from **4**. In the case of DDQ, the products were complex mixtures. In the case of 10% Pd-C, the reaction proceeded under mild conditions. Consequently, we determined the conditions for the reaction of **4** with 10% Pd-C (50% wet) (4 times the weight of **4**) in AcOH at 120°C, and obtained **6** in 79% yield as shown in Scheme 2.

Similarly, 7-bromo-2-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione (**7**) was obtained in 76% yield from 7-bromo-2-methyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione (**5**), which was obtained in 81% yield by the reaction of **4** with 2eq. of 40% methylamine (MeOH solution) in AcOH, by the same reaction as **4** to **6**.



**Scheme 2.** Aromatization using 10% Pd-C

This method of aromatization using 10% Pd-C is a mild and convenient way of synthesizing naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione derivatives.



Entry	MeNH <sub>2</sub> (eq.)	Additive (eq.)	Conditions	Ratio by HPLC <sup>b</sup>	
				<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
1	2	none	120°C – 4 h	95	5
2	10	none	120°C – 4 h	77	23
			24 h	53	48
3	25	none	120°C – 4 h	36	64
			24 h	4	96
4	50	none	120°C – 4 h	23	77
			24 h	<b>0.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>
5	2	Et <sub>3</sub> N (8)	120°C – 4 h	20	80
			24 h	2	98
6	2	Et <sub>3</sub> N (23)	120°C – 4 h	2	98
			24 h	<b>ND<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>100</b>
7	10	Et <sub>3</sub> N (15)	120°C – 4 h	10	90
			24 h	<b>ND</b>	<b>100</b>
8	10	AcONa (15)	120°C – 4 h	45	55
			24 h	6	94

a 300 eq. of AcOH was used as solvent. b Determined at 220nm. c ND = Not detected.

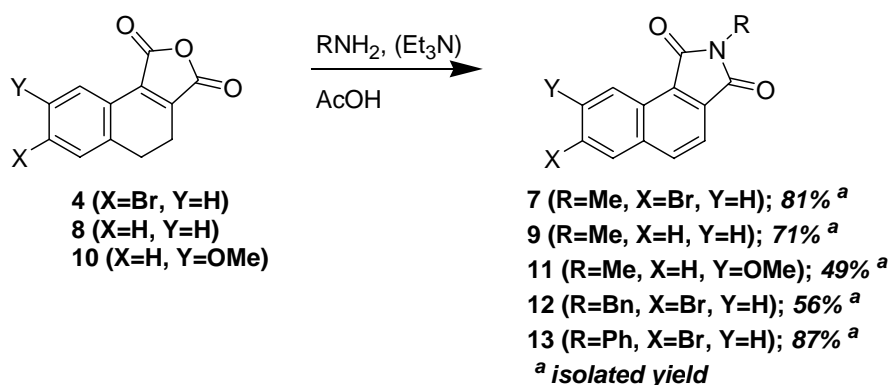
### 3. One-pot imidation and aromatization to benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione using primary amine

In the course of our studies of the conversion of **4** to **5**, we noticed that the ratio of the aromatized compound (**7**) increased depending on the equivalent of methylamine as shown in Table 1. (Entries 1-4)

Furthermore, this reaction was accelerated by addition of triethylamine. (Entries 5-7)

Consequently, using only methylamine and base in refluxing AcOH, **7** was obtained in 81% yield by imidation and simultaneous aromatization by oxidation in one-pot starting from **4** as shown in Scheme 3.

Using the same procedure, several benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione derivatives (**9**, **11**, **12**, **13**) were obtained in good yield by imidation and simultaneous aromatization by oxidation in one pot from 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione derivatives (**4**, **8**, **10**).



**Scheme 3.** One pot imidation and aromatization using primary amine

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we achieved the synthesis of naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione and benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione in acetic acid with 10% Pd-C under mild conditions. Unexpectedly, benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione was obtained by imidation and simultaneous aromatization by oxidation in refluxing acetic acid with primary amine in two steps, one pot.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined based on differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). IR spectra were recorded on a Thermo Electron Nicolet 4700 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX300 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the internal deuterated solvent or tetramethylsilane. HPLC was performed with a Hitachi L-6200, Hitachi L-4000 UV spectrophotometric detector at 220 nm, and YMC ODS-Pack A-302 150 mm×4.6 mm i.d. column. DSC, MS spectra and elemental analyses were performed at Takeda Analytical Research Laboratories, Ltd.. All commercial chemicals and solvents were of reagent grade and used without further purification.

**Ethyl 4-(3-aminophenyl)butanoate (2).** To a suspension of 4-(3-aminophenyl)butanoic acid hydrochloride (**1**; 4.31 g, 20 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) was added conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.4 mL), and the resulting

mixture was refluxed for 1 h. After cooling, AcOEt (20 mL) and 1N-NaOH (40 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and separated. The organic extract was washed with 1N-NaOH (30 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL x 2) and concentrated in vacuo to give **2** (3.93 g, 94.7%) as a pale brown liquid; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 50:50) *t<sub>R</sub>*: 2.1(**1**), 5.4(**2**); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.24(t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.92(quint, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.30(t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.55(t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.62(br, 2H), 4.12(q, *J*=7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.49-6.58(m, 3H), 7.02-7.08(m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 14.2, 26.3, 33.6, 35.0, 60.1, 112.7, 115.2, 118.7, 129.2, 142.6, 146.4, 173.5.

**Ethyl 4-(3-bromophenyl)butanoate (3)**. To a solution of **2** (207 mg, 1 mmol) and 48% HBr (1 mL) was added an H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL) solution of sodium nitrite (69 mg, 1 mmol), and the resulting mixture was added to a solution of copper(I) bromide (143 mg, 1 mmol) and 48% HBr (0.2 mL) in acetone (2 mL). After the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h, AcOEt (6 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and separated. The organic extract was washed with 1N-NaOH (4 mL x 2) and H<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL x 2) and concentrated in vacuo to give **3** (210 mg, 77.5%) as an orange liquid; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) *t<sub>R</sub>*: 2.8(**2**), 7.4(**3**); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.26(t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.94(quint, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.31(t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.62(t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.13(q, *J*=7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.19(m, 2H), 7.30-7.33(m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 14.2, 26.2, 33.5, 34.7, 60.3, 122.4, 127.1, 129.1, 129.9, 131.5, 143.7, 173.2.

**7-Bromo-4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (4)**. To a suspension of sodium ethoxide (61 mg, 0.9 mmol) in THF (1 mL) were added diethyl oxalate (105 mg, 0.72 mmol) and **3** (163 mg, 0.6 mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 100°C for 1 h. After cooling, 80% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (4 mL) was added to the mixture at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 80°C for 30 min. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **4** (110 mg, 65.9%) as a pale yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) *t<sub>R</sub>*: 7.4(**3**), 4.9(**4**); mp 181.9°C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1833.9, 1755.0, 1262.3, 876.6 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.79(t, *J*=8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.09(t, *J*=8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46(s, 1H), 7.49(dd, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.91(d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 18.5, 26.7, 124.0, 126.7, 127.7, 130.8, 131.8, 138.7, 138.8, 139.8, 162.8, 163.9; MS(EI): *m/z* 278[M]<sup>+</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Br: C, 51.64; H, 2.53. Found: C, 51.96; H, 2.74.

**7-Bromo-2-methyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione (5)**. To a suspension of **4** (279 mg, 1 mmol) in AcOH (17 mL) was added 40% methylamine (methanol solution) (0.16 mL, 2 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 4 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (4 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **5** (235 mg, 80.5%) as a yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) *t<sub>R</sub>*: 4.8(**4**), 5.9(**5**); mp 169.1°C

(AcOH); IR(KBr): 1759.7, 1696.0, 1435.4, 1382.9  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 2.67(t,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.99(t,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.05(s, 3H), 7.38(s, 1H), 7.42(dd,  $J=8.2$  Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96(d,  $J=8.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 17.9, 23.6, 27.0, 124.6, 125.6, 127.1, 130.3, 131.4, 135.4, 138.1, 138.7, 169.4, 170.1; MS(EI):  $m/z$  291[M] $^+$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}$ : C, 53.45; H, 3.45; N, 4.79. Found: C, 53.71; H, 3.43; N, 4.89.

**7-Bromonaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (6).** To a suspension of **4** (28 mg, 0.1 mmol) in AcOH (1 mL) was added 10% Pd-C (50% wet) (112 mg), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 6 h. After cooling, Pd-C was filtered off and washed with AcOEt, and the mother solution was concentrated in vacuo to give **6** (22 mg, 78.6%) as a white crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ -MeCN= 30:70)  $t_R$ : 4.9(**4**), 5.0(**6**); mp 211.6°C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1840.4, 1759.2, 1281.6, 882.1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ): 8.04(dd,  $J=8.8$  Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.07(d,  $J=8.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.48(d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.55(d,  $J=9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.58(d,  $J=1.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ): 120.8, 123.7, 125.6, 125.8, 127.8, 131.4, 131.5, 133.6, 136.4, 137.4, 163.2(2C); MS(EI):  $m/z$  276[M] $^+$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_5\text{O}_3\text{Br}$ : C, 52.02; H, 1.82. Found: C, 52.14; H, 2.07.

**7-Bromo-2-methyl-1H-benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (7) from 5 using 10% Pd-C.** To a suspension of **5** (29 mg, 0.1 mmol) in AcOH (1 mL) was added 10% Pd-C (50% wet) (116 mg), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 10 h. After cooling, Pd-C was filtered off and washed with AcOEt, and the mother solution was concentrated in vacuo to give **7** (22 mg, 75.9%) as a white crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ -MeCN= 30:70)  $t_R$ : 5.9(**5**), 6.2(**7**); mp 238.7°C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1758.0, 1707.5, 1697.9, 1379.8  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.22(s, 3H), 7.78(dd,  $J=9.0$  Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88(d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.05(d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.12(d,  $J=1.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.80(d,  $J=9.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 23.9, 119.6, 123.4, 126.3, 126.5, 127.9, 130.7, 131.6, 132.9, 133.7, 137.5, 168.7, 169.3; MS(EI):  $m/z$  289[M] $^+$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2\text{Br}\cdot 0.4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 52.52; H, 2.98; N, 4.71. Found: C, 52.60; H, 2.94; N, 4.67.

**7 from 4 using methylamine and triethylamine.** To a suspension of **4** (70 mg, 0.25 mmol) in AcOH (4.3 mL) were added 40% methylamine (methanol solution) (0.04 mL, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (582 mg, 5.75 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 24 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (1 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **7** (59 mg, 80.8%) as a yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ -MeCN= 30:70)  $t_R$ : 4.8(**4**), 5.9(**5**), 6.2(**7**).

**2-Methyl-1H-benzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (9).** To a suspension of 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (**8**; 60 mg, 0.3 mmol) in AcOH (3 mL) was added 40% methylamine (methanol solution) (1.2 mL, 15 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 48 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (1 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to

give **9** (45 mg, 71.4%) as a pale yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 65:35) t<sub>R</sub>: 31.4(**8**), 30.3(**9**); mp 167.4°C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1706.7, 1694.6, 1437.1, 1378.8 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 3.19(s, 3H), 7.59-7.71(m, 2H), 7.79(d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90(d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.09(d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.87(d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 23.7, 118.3, 124.8, 127.4, 127.8, 128.6(2C), 129.3, 131.3, 134.7, 136.4, 168.9, 169.6; MS(ESI): m/z 212[M+H]<sup>+</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.92; H, 4.29; N, 6.63. Found: C, 73.80; H, 4.19; N, 6.64.

**8-Methoxy-2-methylbenzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione (11).** To a suspension of 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-1,3-dione (**10**; 115 mg, 0.5 mmol) in AcOH (8.5 mL) were added 40% methylamine (methanol solution) (0.08 mL, 1 mmol) and triethylamine (1.16 g, 11.5 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 24 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (2 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **11** (59 mg, 48.8%) as a pale yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) t<sub>R</sub>: 3.7(**10**), 4.3(**11**); mp 173.8 °C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1753.3, 1708.5, 1695.9, 1377.8 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 3.19(s, 3H), 3.99(s, 3H), 7.23(dd, *J*=9.1 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64(d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76(d, *J*=9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.98(d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.14(d, *J*=2.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 23.6, 55.6, 102.0, 116.1, 122.1, 125.5, 129.6, 130.0, 131.7, 132.3, 134.3, 160.5, 169.1, 170.0; MS(ESI): m/z 242[M+H]<sup>+</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>·0.1H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 68.73; H, 4.61; N, 5.73. Found: C, 68.74; H, 4.50; N, 5.77.

**2-Benzyl-7-bromobenzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione (12).** To a suspension of **4** (84 mg, 0.3 mmol) in AcOH (5.1 mL) were added benzylamine (64 mg, 0.6 mmol) and triethylamine (698 mg, 6.9 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 24 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (1.5 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **12** (61 mg, 55.5%) as an orange crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) t<sub>R</sub>: 4.8(**4**), 13.0(**12**); mp 157.9 °C (AcOH); IR(KBr): 1697.7, 1397.3, 1387.9, 1352.8 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 4.88(s, 2H), 7.24-7.35(m, 3H), 7.45-7.48(m, 2H), 7.75(dd, *J*=9.0 Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85(d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01(d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.08(d, *J*=1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.77(d, *J*=9.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 41.6, 119.7, 123.5, 126.3, 126.5, 127.7, 127.8, 128.6(2C), 128.7(2C), 130.7, 131.4, 132.9, 133.8, 136.4, 137.5, 168.2, 168.8; MS(ESI): m/z 366[M+H]<sup>+</sup>; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br: C, 62.32; H, 3.30; N, 3.82. Found: C, 62.24; H, 3.36; N, 3.96.

**7-Bromo-2-phenylbenzo[*e*]isoindole-1,3-dione (13).** To a suspension of **4** (84 mg, 0.3 mmol) in AcOH (5.1 mL) were added phenylamine (56 mg, 0.6 mmol) and triethylamine (698 mg, 6.9 mmol) at 0°C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 24 h. After cooling, the resulting precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with MeOH (1.5 mL x 3) and dried in vacuo to give **13** (92 mg, 86.8%) as a yellow crystalline powder; HPLC(50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-MeCN= 30:70) t<sub>R</sub>: 4.8(**4**), 9.2(**13**); mp 292.2 °C (AcOH);

IR(KBr): 1716.1, 1502.2, 1384.9, 749.8  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.37-7.56(m, 5H), 7.84(dd,  $J=9.0$  Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.99(d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.15(d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.18(d,  $J=1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.89(d,  $J=9.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 120.0, 123.8, 126.57, 126.61(2C), 126.7, 128.1, 129.1, 129.2(2C), 130.9, 131.2, 131.6, 133.2, 134.3, 137.8, 167.5, 168.1; MS(ESI):  $m/z$  352[M+H] $^+$ ; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}$ : C, 61.39; H, 2.86; N, 3.98. Found: C, 61.39; H, 2.92; N, 4.07.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Dr. Kiminori Tomimatsu and Mr. Yuzuru Saito for helpful discussions.

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