Synthetic approaches towards 5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-ones Adel S. Girgis^a, Hanaa M. Hosni^a and Atef Kalmouch^b

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The construction of 5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-ones **2** was achieved through the reaction of 1-aryl-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-propen-1-ones **1** with malononitrile in alcoholic KOH solution affording the compound **2** along with 2-alkoxy-4-amino-6-aryl-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitriles **3**. Single crystal X-ray diffraction of **3e** confirmed the established structure and excluded the formation of the isomeric product **4**.

Keywords: 2-propen-1-ones, malononitrile, 5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-ones, 3,5- pyridinedicarbonitriles, Michael reaction, Knoevenagel condensation.

The reaction of α,β -unsaturated Michael acceptors with active methylene compounds is a general route for carbon carbon bond formation. Malononitrile is with α,β -unsaturated ketones and either organic¹⁻³ or inorganic^{4,5} basic catalysts to afford open chain adducts. However, reaction of malononitrile with 1,2,3-triaryl-2-propen-1-ones gave the 2-amino-3-cyano-4,5,6-triaryl-4H-pyrans. It was assumed that the introduction of an aryl group at the α -position of the Michael acceptor is essential for this cyclization process.^{6,7} Various 2-propen-1ones also react with malononitrile under basic catalysis to yield cyclohexanol derivatives via double Michael reaction of malononitrile with the propenone followed by an intramolecular cyclisation under the basic conditions.^{4,7-9} On the other hand, reaction of 1,3-diaryl-2-propen-1-ones with malononitrile in the presence of a sufficient amount of alkoxide anion led to the formation of 2-alkoxy-3-cyanopyridines.^{7,8,10} Numerous condensed pyridinecarbonitrile systems were obtained using similar conditions by the reaction of malononitrile with various α,β -unsaturated ketones.¹¹⁻¹⁵

In the present work, the reaction of 1-aryl-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-propen-1-ones with malononitrile in the presence of sufficient amount of alkoxide anion was investigated. The hydroxyl group might behave as an active nucleophilic centre in the reaction affording the condensed 5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridine derivatives. The synthesis of this condensed heterocyclic system is interesting due to the potential biological activities associated with its structure such as antipsychotic "dopamine D₄ receptor antagonist",¹⁶⁻¹⁸ anticholinergic and bronchodilating agents.¹⁹⁻²⁴

Reaction of 1-aryl-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-propen-1-ones **1a–c** with malononitrile in alcoholic (methanolic or ethanolic) KOH solution at room temperature, afforded a mixture of two products which were isolated by silica gel TLC. Their structures were established as 4-alkoxy-2-aryl-5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-ones **2** and 2-alkoxy-4-amino-6-aryl-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitriles **3** based on spectroscopic (IR, ¹H, ¹³C NMR, MS) and elemental analyses data.

The IR spectra of **2a–f** did not obtain any absorption assignable to a nitrile vibration. However, a strong band due to carbonyl stretching vibration was observed at v =1747–1734 cm⁻¹. The ¹H NMR spectra of **2a–f** showed the presence of an alkoxide residue confirming the involvement of either methoxide (singlet at δ =4.26–4.29) or ethoxide (triplet at δ =1.51-1.57, quartet at δ =4.69–4.77) functions derived from the corresponding alcohol used in the reaction. In addition the heterocyclic H-1 appeared as a sharp singlet signal at δ =7.84– 7.98. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **2b** adds a conclusive support for the established structure revealing the methyl and methylene carbons of ethoxide residue at δ =14.60, 63.30 respectively, together with to the heterocyclic C-1 and carbonyl carbons at $\delta = 104.16, 164.18$ respectively.

The formation of **2** was assumed to take place *via* a Michael addition of the active methylene malononitrile to the β -carbon of 2-propen-1-ones **1**. Then, cyclisation due to addition of the alkoxide residue at one of the nitrile groups with subsequent nucleophilic attack of the hydroxyl oxygen at the other nitrile function took place. Hydrolysis of the imino group under these reaction conditions afforded eventually the 4-alkoxy-2-aryl-5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-ones **2** (Scheme 1).

The IR spectra of **3a–f** did not contain any absorption corresponding to a carbonyl function. On the other hand, bands assignable for the amino stretching vibration absorption appeared at v =3452–3235 cm⁻¹ beside the nitrile stretching vibration bands at v =2231–2210 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR spectra of **3a–f** exhibited the alkoxide residue (singlet at δ =4.11 for the methoxide and triplet at δ =1.38–1.44, quartet at δ =4.50–4.58 for the ethoxide protons) in addition to the amino singlet



1a; R=Ph 1b; R=4-CIC₆H₄ 1c; R=4-H₃CC₆H₄ 2a, 3a; R=Ph, R¹=CH₃ 2b, 3b; R=Ph, R¹=C₂H₅ 2c, 3c; R=4-ClC₆H₄, R¹=CH₃ 2d, 3d; R=4-ClC₆H₄, R¹=C₂H₅ 2e, 3e; R=4-H₃CC₆H₄, R¹=C₂H₅ 2f, 3f; R=4-H₃CC₆H₄, R¹=C₂H₅

Scheme 1

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signal at $\delta = 5.58-5.68$. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **3e** exhibited data consistent with the established structure in which the methoxide carbon appeared at $\delta = 59.87$ in addition to the nitrile carbons at $\delta = 118.47$, 120.76. The pyridine C-5 and C-3 appeared at $\delta = 81.24$, 91.79 respectively.

The formation of **3** presumably, took place through oxidative cleavage of the starting propenone **1** giving rise to the (un) substituted benzoate ester, which in turn interacted with the active methylene malononitrile dimer (formed under the basic reaction conditions). Subsequently, cyclisation took place due to alkoxide nucleophilic attack at one of the nitrile groups finally giving the 2-alkoxy-4-amino-6-aryl-3, 5-pyridine-dicarbonitriles **3**.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction of $3e^{25}$ (Fig. 1) confirms the established structure and excludes the presence of any isomeric product such as 4.

Single crystal X-ray experimental data of 3e.

The experimental data were collected at T = 298 °K on a Kappa CCD Enraf Nonius FR 590 diffractometer using a graphite monochromator with M_o-K_α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). The crystal structure was determined by SIR92²⁶ and refind by maXus²⁷ (Bruker Nonius, Delft and MacScience, Japan). Chemical formula $C_{15}H_{12}N_4O$, $M_r = 264.288$, monoclinic, crystallizes in space group *P*-21/c, Cell lengths "a = 6.9467(5), b=17.7902(12), c=11.0487(10)Å", $\beta=99.387(2)$ °, V=1347.1(2)Å³, Z = 4, $D_c = 1.303$ g/cm³, θ values 2.96–27.09°, absorption coefficient μ (Mo-K α) =0.09 mm⁻¹, F(000) = 552. 3670 unique reflections were measured, of which 849 reflections with threshold expression $I > 3\sigma$ (I) were used in the structural analysis. Convergence for 196 variable parameters by least-squares refinement on F^2 with $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + 0.10000F_o^2]$. The final agreement factors were R = 0.052 and wR = 0.095 with a goodness-of-fit of 2.107.

Selected intramolecular bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) of **3e**: O(1)-C(8)=1.353(3), O(1)-C(18)=1.459(4), N(3)-C(15)=1.148(4),N(2)-C(12)=1.343(4),N(4)-C(7)=1.357(3), N(4)-C(8)=1.326(4), C(5)-C(8)=1.381(4), C(5)-C(12)=1.400(4),C(5)-C(15)=1.435(4),C(6)-C(11)=1.400(5), C(6)-N(13)=1.165(4), C(7)-C(11)=1.406(4),C(7)-C(14)=1.486(4),C(11)-C(12)=1.415(4),N(2)-H(2A)=1.078(3), N(2)-H(2B)=0.82(3), C(18)-H(18A)=1.06(3),C(18)-H(18B)=0.93(3),C(18)-H(18C)=1.010(4),C(8) - O(1) - C(18) = 118.7(3),C(7)-N(4)-C(8)=118.0(3),C(8)-C(5)-C(12)=117.6(3),C(8)-C(5)-C(15)=121.4(3),C(12)-C(5)-C(15)=121.1(3),C(11)-C(6)-N(13)=172.9(4),N(4)-C(7)-C(11)=120.4(3),N(4)-C(7)-C(14)=112.9(3),C(11)-C(7)-C(14)=126.7(3),O(1)-C(8)-N(4)=118.4(3),O(1)-C(8)-C(5)=115.7(3),N(4)-C(8)-C(5)=125.9(3),C(6)-C(11)-C(7)=123.2(3), C(6)-C(11)-C(12)=116.2(3), C(7)-C(11)-C(12)=120.5(3),N(2)-C(12)-C(5)=121.4(3),N(2)-C(12)-C(11)=121.2(3),C(5)-C(12)-C(11)=117.5(3),N(3)-C(15)-C(5)=178.0(4),C(12)-N(2)-H(2A)=119.3(3),C(12)-N(2)-H(2B)=123.(2),H(2A)-N(2)-H(2B)=118.(2),O(1)-C(18)-H(18A)=105.(2), O(1)-C(18)-H(18B)=106.(2),O(1)-C(18)-H(18C)=109.5(3).

Experimental

Melting points are uncorrected and recorded on an Electrothermal 9100 melting point apparatus. IR spectra (KBr) were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian MERCURY 300 (¹H: 300 MHz; ¹³C: 75 MHz) spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan SSQ 7000 (EI, 70 ev) spectrometer. The starting compounds **1a–c**²⁸ were prepared according to the previously reported procedures.

Reaction of 1 with malononitrile (general procedure).

A mixture of equimolar amounts of the appropriate **1a-c** and malononitrile (10 mmol) in the corresponding alcohol (25 ml)



Fig. 1 Single crystal X-ray diffraction of 3e

containing KOH (1 g) was stirred at room temperature (25–30 °C) for the appropriate time. The solid which separated was collected, washed with water and purified on silica gel TLC (F 254) affording the corresponding **2a–f** and **3a–f** respectively.

4-Methoxy-2-phenyl-5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one (2a): Using the general procedure 1a (2.24 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in methanol (25 ml) gave 2a. With the reaction time of 72h, colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 213–215 °C, yield 20%. IR: v 1743 (C=O), 1592, 1548 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 4.29 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.35–7.58 (m, 6H, arom. H), 7.98 (s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.10–8.20 (m, 3H, arom. H). MS: *m*/*z* (%) 303 [(M), 100], 288 (2), 274 (46), 273 (12), 272 (5). Anal. for C₁₉H₁₃NO₃ (303.297): calcd. C 75.24, H 4.32, N 4.62; found C 75.19, H 4.30, N 4.61%.

4-*Ethoxy-2-phenyl-5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one* (**2b**): Using the general procedure **1a** (2.24 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in ethanol (25 ml) gave **2b**. With a reaction time of 24h. Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 171–173 °C, yield 22%. IR: v_{max} 1740 (C=O), 1597, 1546 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.57 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 4.77 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 7.31–7.58 (m, 6H, arom. H), 7.92 (s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.07–8.17 (m, 3H, arom. H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) "APT": δ 14.60 (CH₃), 63.30 (OCH₂), 104.16 (hetero. C-1), 117.48, 123.53, 124.06, 127.17, 128.69, 130.30, 132.25 (arom. CH), 102.15, 116.30, 137.51, 145.47, 152.86, 156.82, 159.04 (arom. quaternary C), 164.18 (C=O). MS: *m/z* (%) 317 [(M), 88], 302 (76), 289 (56), 288 (20), 273 (100), 272 (16). Anal. for C₂₀H₁₅NO₃ (317.327): calcd. C 75.69, H 4.76, N 4.41; found C 75.79, H 4.81, N 4.44%.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-methoxy-5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one (**2c**): Using the general procedure **1b** (2.59 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in methanol (25 ml) gave **2c**. With a reaction time of 72h. Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 222–224 °C, yield 15%. IR: v_{max} 1738 (C=O), 1592, 1547 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 4.26 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.33–7.58 (m, 5H, arom. H), 7.91 (s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.07–8.13 (m, 3H, arom. H), MS: *m*/*z* (ω) 339 [(M+2), 40], 337 [(M), 98], 322 (2), 308(49), 307 (19), 306 (5), 137 (100). Anal. for C₁₉H₁₂ClNO₃ (337.750): calcd. C 67.56, H 3.58, N 4.15; found C 67.65, H 3.65, N 4.19%.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-ethoxy-5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one (**2d**): Using the general procedure **1b** (2.59 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in ethanol (25 ml) gave **2d**. With a reaction time of 48h. Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (3:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 208–210 °C, yield 14%. IR: v_{max} 1734 (C=O), 1594, 1545 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.51 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 4.69 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 7.19–7.53 (m, 5H, arom. H), 7.84 (s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.02–8.05 (m, 3H, arom. H). MS: *m/z* (%) 353 [(M+2), 21], 351 [(M), 88], 336 (60), 323 (46), 322(18), 307(100), 306(8). Anal. for C₂₀H₁₄ClNO₃ (351.770): calcd. C 68.28, H 4.01, N 3.98; found C 68.24, H 3.98, N 4.00%.

4-Methoxy-2-(4-methylphenyl)-5H-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one (2e): Using the general procedure 1c (2.38 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in methanol (25 ml) gave 2e. With a reaction time of 72h. Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 216– 217 °C, yield 16%. IR: v_{max} 1740 (C=O), 1591, 1548 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.28 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.32–7.57 (m, 5H, arom. H), 7.94 (s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.07–8.12 (m, 3H, arom. H). MS: *m*/*z* (%) 317 [(M), 100], 302 (2), 288 (51), 287 (14), 286 (6). Anal. for C₂₀H₁₅NO₃ (317.327): calcd. C 75.69, H 4.76, N 4.41; found C 75.69, H 4.78, N 4.47%.

4-*Ethoxy*-2-(4-*methylphenyl*)-5*H*-[1]benzopyrano[3,4-c]pyridin-5-one (**2f**): Using the general procedure **1c** (2.38 g; 10 mmol) and malononitrile (0.66 g; 10 mmol) in ethanol (25 ml) gave **2f**. With a reaction time of 72h. Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 156–158 °C, yield 15%. IR: v_{max} 1747 (C=O), 1591, 1546 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.57 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₂*CH*₃), 2.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.77 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 7.31–7.56 (m, 5H, arom. H), 7.91(s, 1H, hetero. H-1), 8.05–8.11 (m, 3H, arom. H). MS: *m/z* (%) 331 [(M), 89], 316 (75), 303 (56), 302(15), 287(100), 286 (16). Anal. for C₂₁H₁₇NO₃ (331.357): calcd. C 76.11, H 5.17, N 4.23; found C 76.16, H 5.22, N 4.20%.

4-Amino-2-methoxy-6-phenyl-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (3a): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 221–223 °C, yield 64%. IR: v_{max} 3341, 3244 (NH₂), 2222 (C≡N), 1660, 1563 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 4.11 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.68 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.49–7.96 (m, 5H, arom. H). MS: *m*/*z* (%) 250 [(M), 51], 249 (27), 220 (10), 219 (15), 77 (100). Anal. for C₁₄H₁₀N₄O (250.250): calcd. C 67.19, H 4.03, N 22.39; found C 67.30, H 4.11, N 22.27%.

4-Amino-2-ethoxy-6-phenyl-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (3b): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 217–218 °C, yield 53%. IR: v_{max} 3452, 3328, 3235 (NH₂), 2231, 2216 (C=N), 1651, 1568 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.44 (t, *J*=6.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 4.58 (q, *J*=6.9 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 5.62 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.48–7.94 (m, 5H, arom. H). MS: *m/z* (%) 264 [(M), 35], 263 (5), 249 (58), 236 (61), 220 (24), 219 (14), 77 (100). Anal. for C₁₅H₁₂N₄O (264.280): calcd. C 68.17, H 4.58, N 21.20; found C 68.15, H 4.55, N 21.18%.

4-Amino-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methoxy-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (**3c**): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroformlight petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 265–267 °C, yield 49%. IR: v_{max} 3367, 3243 (NH₂), 2229 (C=N), 1680, 1564 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 4.11 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.62 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.48 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 2H, arom. H), 7.90 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 2H, arom. H). MS: *m*/z (%) 286 [(M+2), 33], 284 [(M), 100], 283 (56), 254 (12), 253 (6). Anal. for C₁₄H₉CIN₄O (284.695): calcd. C 59.06, H 3.19, N 19.68; found C 58.93, H 3.10, N 19.79%.

4-Amino-6-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-ethoxy-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (3d): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (3:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 229–231 °C, yield 40%. IR: v_{max} 3385, 3341, 3245 (NH₂), 2228, 2210 (C=N), 1661, 1558 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.38 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 4.50 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 5.58 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.41 (d, *J*=8.7 Hz, 2H, arom H), 7.81 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H, arom H). MS: *m/z* (%) 300 [(M+2), 28], 298 [(M), 85], 297 (6), 283 (97), 270 (100), 254 (31), 253 (3). Anal. for Cl₁₅H₁₁ClN₄O (298.723): calcd. C 60.31, H 3.71, N 18.76; found C 60.36, H 3.77, N 18.78%.

4-Amino--2-methoxy-6-(4-methylphenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (**3e**): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroform-light petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 253–255 °C, yield 68%. IR: v_{max} 3406, 3347, 3252 (NH₂), 2223, 2210 (C≡N), 1658, 1570 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.43 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.11 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.60 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.31 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 2H, arom. H), 7.86 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H, arom. H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) "APT": δ 26.22 (CH₃), 59.87 (OCH₃), 81.24, 91.79 (hetero. C-5, C-3 respectively), 118.47, 120.76 (2 C≡N), 133.76, 133.97 (arom. CH), 139.08, 145.91, 164.49, 168.40, 170.87 (arom. quaternary C). MS: *m/z* (%) 264 [(M), 100], 263 (44), 234 (11), 233 (7). Anal. for C₁₅H₁₂N₄O (264.280): calcd. C 68.17, H 4.58, N 21.20; found C 68.18, H 4.60, N 21.21%.

4-Amino--2-ethoxy-6-(4-methylphenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarbonitrile (**3f**): Colourless crystals purified by silica gel TLC using chloroformlight petroleum (60–80 °C) (2:1 v/v) for elution, m.p. 225–227 °C, yield 65%. IR: v_{max} 3398, 3342, 3248 (NH₂), 2225, 2210 (C=N), 1659, 1570 cm⁻¹ (C=N, C=C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.44 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, CH₃) 4.58 (q, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 5.61 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.30 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 2H, arom H), 7.84 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H, arom. H). MS: *m*/*z* (%) 278 [(M), 100], 277 (8), 263 (99), 250 (94), 234 (31), 233 (7). Anal. for C₁₆H₁₄N₄O (278.300): calcd. C 69.05, H 5.07, N 20.13; found C 69.00, H 5.03, N 20.19%. Thanks are due to Prof. I. S. Ahmed-Farag, X-ray lab., Solid State Physics Dept., National Research Centre, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt, for the single crystal X-ray diffraction.

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