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## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

# Highly efficient and versatile one-pot synthesis of substituted thienylidene compounds

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A novel, efficient, and very mild one-pot synthesis of methyl 2-[(Z)-4-aryl-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophen-2-ylidene]acetate derivatives under kinetic control has been developed. The title compounds were prepared by the reaction of thioacetomorpholides with dimethyl acetylene-dicarboxylate (DMAD) in the presence of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in a non-polar solvent with excellent yields.

Keywords: Substituted thienylidenes

## 1. Introduction

The ready availability of activated acetylenes allows their use in the synthesis, and permits the study, of new types of organic sulfur compounds [1,2]. Reactions of acetylene compounds with sulfide anions are of great importance in the synthesis of the thiophenes [3,4]. On the other hand, sulfur compounds, and especially vinyl sulfides, form the basis of drugs, highly active pesticides, and thermally stable and conductive materials [5,6].

In connection with our work on thioamides, especially thioacetomorpholides, for the construction of new heterocyclic compounds [7], we report here a very mild, efficient, and one-pot synthesis of methyl 2-[(Z)-4-aryl-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophen-2-ylidene]acetate derivatives, under kinetic control, from thioacetomorpholides, a process which, to the best of our knowledge, has not yet been described.

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#### 2. **Result and discussion**

The thioacetomorpholides were found to react smoothly with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) in the presence of  $K_2CO_3$  in a non-polar solvent such as toluene to produce methyl 2-[(Z)-4-aryl-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophen-2-ylidene]acetate derivativesin good to excellent yields (82–94%) and in short reaction times (scheme 1). The reaction was carried out on a 2 mmol scale, in anhydrous toluene, and at a temperature between 40 and 50 °C. The reaction proceeded in low yields at 0-20 °C, and higher temperatures led to a complex mixture of unidentified coloured products.





Toluene was the best choice for this reaction; dimethylformamide and tetrahydrofuran were also effective, but the reaction proceeded sluggishly with lower yields and the formation of side products. In a typical procedure 1a was treated with 1.1 molar equivalents of DMAD in toluene and the mixture was heated at 45 °C for 50 min to give the desired product 2a in 92% isolated yield.

To demonstrate the generality of this methodology, different substrates were used and the results are summarized in table 2.

We suggest that the thioamide first undergoes S-alkylation via a Michael addition to DMAD, then subsequent enamine nucleophilic attack leading to cyclization and formation of the methyl 2-[(Z)-4-ary]-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophen-2-ylidene]acetate derivatives. It should be noted that, theoretically, the reaction could proceed *via* two different routes, giving thiophenes A or 4*H*-thiopyran-4-one derivatives B (scheme 2). Since the two possible structures A and B could not be distinguished by spectroscopic methods such as <sup>1</sup>H- and

solvent on the reaction course. <sup>a</sup>							
		Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)					
Entry	Time (min)	DMF	THF	Toluene			
2a	50	53	73	92			
2e	60	58	78	90			
2g	75	43	56	82			

Table 1 Investigation of the effects of varying the

<sup>a</sup>Reactions were carried using 2 mmol thioacetomorpholide, 2.1 mmol DMAD, and 0.522 g K2CO3 at 45 °C. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

	Ar N Ja-h	DMAD / K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	O 2a-h	
Entry	Ar product of 2	Time (min)	Mp (°C)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)
1	Ph	50	167-169	92
2	4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	60	191–193	94
3	$4-BrC_6H_4$	50	228-230	83
4	$4-ClC_6H_4$	65	232-234	85
5	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	60	168-170	90
6	4-PhC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	70	209-211	84
7	1-Naphthyl	75	208-210	82
8	2-Naphthyl	75	196–198	85

 

 Table 2.
 Construction of methyl 2-[(Z)-4-aryl-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophene-2-ylidene]acetate derivatives from thioacetomorpholides.

\_\_\_\_0

Ar

<sup>a</sup>Yield refers to pure isolated products.



<sup>13</sup>C-NMR, the decisive assignment was confirmed by an X-ray crystal-structure analysis of the crystalline compound **2h** (table 2, entry 8; figure 1).

## Conclusions

In conclusion, we have developed a new, general, efficient, and versatile method for the preparation of novel methyl 2-[(Z)-4-aryl-5-morpholino-3-oxo-2,3-dihydrothiophen-2-ylidene]acetate derivatives. The usefulness of this methodology lies in the fact that the reactions proceed under mild conditions and kinetic control, in a short time, and in excellent yields. Furthermore this is a one-pot procedure using the starting materials, which are also available by known procedures [8].

### 3. Experimental

All compounds gave satisfactory spectroscopic data.



Figure 1. ORTEP [9] representation of the molecule **2h** (50% probability ellipsoids; H-atoms given arbitrary displacement parameters for clarity).

### 3.1 Crystal structure determination of compound 2h

Crystals of **2h** were obtained from EtOH. All measurements were performed on a Nonius KappaCCD area-detector diffractometer [10] using graphite-monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) and an Oxford Cryosystems Cryostream 700 cooler. The data collection and refinement parameters are given below and a view of the molecule is shown in figure 1. Data reduction was performed with HKL Denzo and Scalepack [11]. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, and an absorption correction based on the multi-scan method [12] was applied. The space-group was uniquely determined by the systematic absences. Equivalent reflections were merged. The structure was solved by direct methods using SIR92 [13], which revealed the positions of all non-hydrogen atoms. The nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All of the H-atoms were placed in geometrically calculated positions and refined using a riding model where each H-atom was assigned a fixed isotropic displacement parameter with a value equal to  $1.2U_{eq}$  of its parent atom (1.5 $U_{eq}$  for the methyl group). The refinement of the structure was carried out on  $F^2$  using full-matrix least-squares procedures, which minimized the function  $\Sigma w (F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2$ . The largest peak of residual electron density is within 1.0 Å of the S-atom. All calculations were performed using the SHELXL97 program [14].

**3.1.1** Crystal data for 2h.  $C_{21}H_{19}NO_4S$ , M = 381.44, orange prism, crystal dimensions  $0.10 \times 0.25 \times 0.25$  mm, monoclinic, space-group  $P2_1/c$ , Z = 4, reflections for cell determination 49.948,  $2\theta$  range for cell determination 4–60°, a = 17.7576(4), b = 6.1996(1), c = 18.3061(4) Å,  $\beta = 113.753(1)^\circ$ , V = 1844.60(7) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $T = -113 \circ C$ ,  $D_X = 1.373 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu(\text{Mo-}K_{\alpha}) = 0.203 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $2\theta_{(\text{max})} = 60^\circ$ , transmission factors (min; max) 0.876; 0.982, total reflections measured 49.140, symmetry-independent reflections 5393, reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  4132, reflections used in refinement 5393, parameters refined 245; R(F) [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$  reflections] = 0.0489,  $wR(F^2)$  [all data] = 0.1328 ( $w = [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0601P)^2 + 1.1135P]^{-1}$ , where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ ), goodness of fit 1.035, final  $\Delta_{\text{max}}/\sigma$  0.001,  $\Delta\rho$  (max; min) = 1.01; -0.32 e Å^{-3}. CCDC-275008 contains the supplementary

crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.

## 3.2 General procedure for the one-pot preparation of compounds 2a-2h

To a stirred solution of thioacetomorpholide (2 mmol) in toluene (5 ml) was added  $K_2CO_3$  (4 mmol, 0.552 g). Then dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD, 2.1 mmol) was added dropwise over 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was heated at 40–50 °C for about 50 minutes. The solvent was evaporated off and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel; hexane:ethyl acetate, 1:1) to afford the corresponding products.

## 3.2.1 Spectroscopic data for compounds 2a-2h

**2a:** yellow crystals (EtOH), mp 167–169 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.73 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.51 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.3, 170.2, 167.7, 146.8, 134.5, 130.5, 129.0, 127.8, 115.2, 108.9, 66.7, 52.7, 51.5; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2485, 1700, 1645, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2b:** orange crystals (EtOH), mp 191–193 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.71 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.52 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.6, 169.9, 167.3, 146.8, 137.6, 131.3, 130.3, 129.8, 115.1, 109.0, 66.8, 52.7, 51.5, 21.7; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2853, 1692, 1647, 1545, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2c:** orange crystals (EtOH), mp 228–230 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.54 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.73 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.57 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  184.9, 170.3, 167.5, 146.3, 133.3, 132.1, 121.8, 115.5, 107.6, 96.6, 66.6, 52.7, 51.6; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2845, 1692, 1652, 1548, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2d:** yellowish orange crystals (EtOH), mp 232–234 °C, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.73 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 3.52 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.2, 170.5, 167.6, 146.4, 133,6, 132.9, 131.7, 129.2, 115.5, 107.6, 66.7, 52.8, 51.6; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2853, 1654, 1546, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2e:** orange crystals (EtOH), mp 168–170 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.71 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.52 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.2, 169.6, 167.3, 146.6, 132.2, 131.5, 126.4, 114.3, 108.5, 96.5, 66.6, 55.4, 52.5, 51.3; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2945, 1692, 1646, 1545, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2f:** orange crystals (EtOH), mp 209–211 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.39 (m, 3H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.74 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 4H), 3.57 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.3, 170.2, 167.6, 146.7, 141.0, 140.5, 133.4, 130.8, 129.2, 127.8, 127.6, 115.4, 108.5, 96.6, 66.5, 52.6, 51.6; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2915, 1692, 1654, 1545, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2g:** yellowish orange crystals (EtOH), mp 208–210 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.41–3.54 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.2, 169.8, 167.6, 146.6, 134.3, 132.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8,

126.8, 126.5, 126.1, 125.9, 115.4, 106.7, 96.6, 66.7, 52.6, 51.0; IR (KBr) v 2853, 1692, 1653, 1545, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**2h:** orange crystals (EtOH), mp 196–198 °C; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.85–7.88 (m, 3H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.70 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.52 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 125 MHz)  $\delta$  185.1, 170.3, 167.4, 146.7, 133.8, 132.9, 129.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 126.6, 126.5, 115.3, 108.7, 96.6, 66.5, 52.6, 51.6; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2945, 1692, 1653, 1545, 1315 (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

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