

Synthesis of 2-pyrone-4-carboxaldehydes from acetylene dicarboxaldehyde monoacetal

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Abstract—Reaction of acetylene dicarboxaldehyde monoacetal with substituted Meldrum's acid leads good yields in 2-pyranones-4-carboxaldehydes substituted in position 3.

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1. Introduction

Acetylene dicarboxaldehyde and its precursors monoacetals **1** and **2** are useful starting materials that have found many applications in dipolar cycloadditions,^{1a–c} Diels–Alder,^{1a,f–i} Michael,^{1a,f,g,j} or Wittig^{1k} reactions. As unsaturated aldehydes, **1** and **2** have a potential use in heterocyclic synthesis. We recently obtained a good yield in **1** starting from 2,5-dimethoxy-2,5-dihydrofuran,² and we now reacted this compound with some diesters in order to obtain protected aldehydes in the α -pyranone series (Fig. 1).

The α -pyranone target was chosen because to the best of our knowledge, in this system, only unsubstituted aldehydes **3** are described,^{3a} while many methods for the

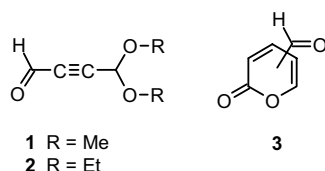


Figure 1.

Keywords: Acetylene dicarboxaldehyde; Meldrum's acid; 2-Pyranone-4-carboxaldehyde; Pyroglutamic acid.

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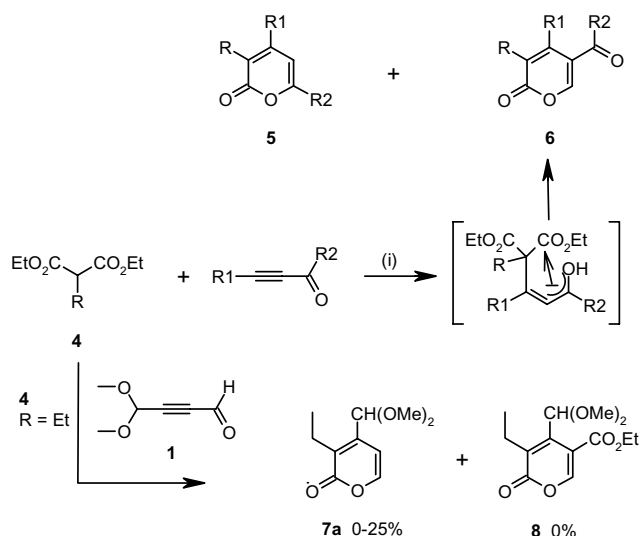
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synthesis of other 2-pyrones have been reported to date.^{3b} The δ -lactone sub-unit frequently occurs in natural compounds, which present anti-inflammatory^{4a} or stimulating^{4b} properties. Some of these compounds are also inhibitors of the ATP metabolism,^{4c} act as vasodilating and antiarrhythmic agents,^{4d} are inhibitors of HIV-1 protease,^{4e} or possess antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities.^{4f} Furthermore α -pyrones are very useful substrates for Diels–Alder reactions with acetylene and olefin dienophiles producing benzene and cyclohexadiene derivatives.^{4g}

2. Results and discussion

Reaction of acetylenic ketones with ethyl diethyl malonate **4** has been described; depending on the catalyst-to-reagent ratio, α -pyranones **5** were obtained, or a rearrangement leading to esters **6** occurred.⁵ When we used acetylenic aldehyde **1** and ester **4** (R = Et), whatever the conditions, only acetal **7a** was obtained in 0–25% yield and even traces of ester **8** were never observed (Scheme 1).

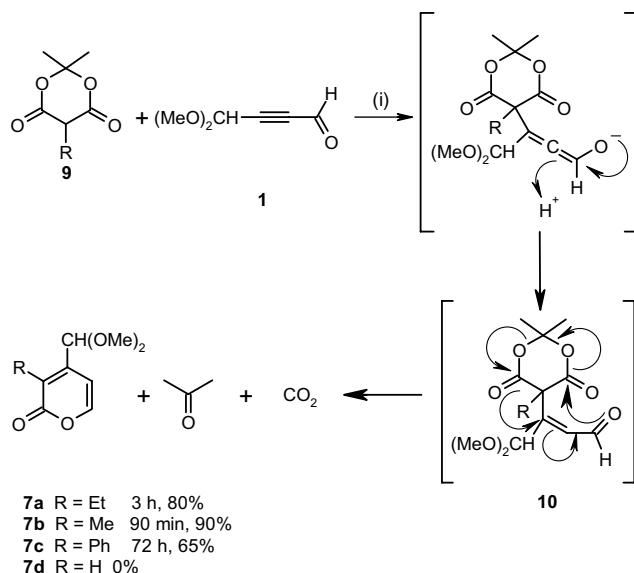
This reaction is rather similar to the condensation of acetylenic ketones with substituted Meldrum's acid **9**⁶ described by Arcadi.⁷ When we used acetylenic aldehyde **1** and ethyl Meldrum's acid **9** (R = Et) in these conditions (K₂CO₃, MeCN, TBAC), acetal **7a** was obtained in 75% yield after refluxing for 24 h (more than 48 h under reflux were necessary in the absence of a phase transfer agent). Modification of reaction parameters



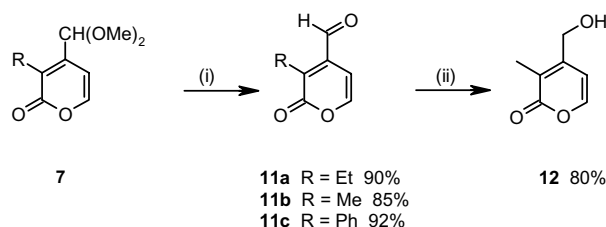
Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) EtONa/THF.

led to utilize TrisMethoxyEthoxyEthylAmine (TMEEA)⁸ as phase transfer agent and THF as solvent; in that case, only 3 h under reflux were necessary to obtain 80% yield in **7a** (Scheme 2). It is noteworthy that the initial condensation leading to intermediate **10** is rather fast enough, even when 5% of TMEEA were used, while the yield in cyclized product **7a** is strongly dependent on the amount of the phase transfer agent. No improvements in the yields were obtained by using more than 50% of TMEEA.

As for the mechanism of the cyclization step, by analogy with the work of Shimizu,^{5a} thermolysis of the α,β -unsaturated aldehyde **10** is plausible, because it is possible to observe the formation of this intermediate **10**⁹ (or to isolate it by using preparative chromatography). Thus the large amount of phase transfer agent would be necessary in order to improve the proton exchange leading to **10**.



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (i) K_2CO_3 /TMEEA/THF.



Scheme 3. Reagents and conditions: (i) R = Me, Et: $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/20^\circ\text{C}$; R = Ph: $\text{HCl}/\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/20^\circ\text{C}$; (ii) R = Me: $\text{NaBH}_4/\text{MeOH}, 0^\circ\text{C}$.

While only decomposition was observed when Meldrum's acid (**9**, R = H) was opposed to acetylenic aldehyde **1**, the reaction is general for his mono substituted derivatives and good yields in protected aldehydes **7b** and **7c** were easily obtained (Scheme 2).

Some aspects of the reactivity of these acetals were investigated: hydrolysis of the acetal function of pyranone **7a** took 50 h at room temperature in diluted hydrochloric acid (for **7c**: 20 h under reflux in $\text{HCl}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$). Gorgues described a deprotection of acetals by formic acid.^{1f,g} In a variation of this method, by using trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane, aldehydes **7a** and **7b** were rapidly obtained in very good yield (CH_2Cl_2 , 45 min, 20°C) (Scheme 3).

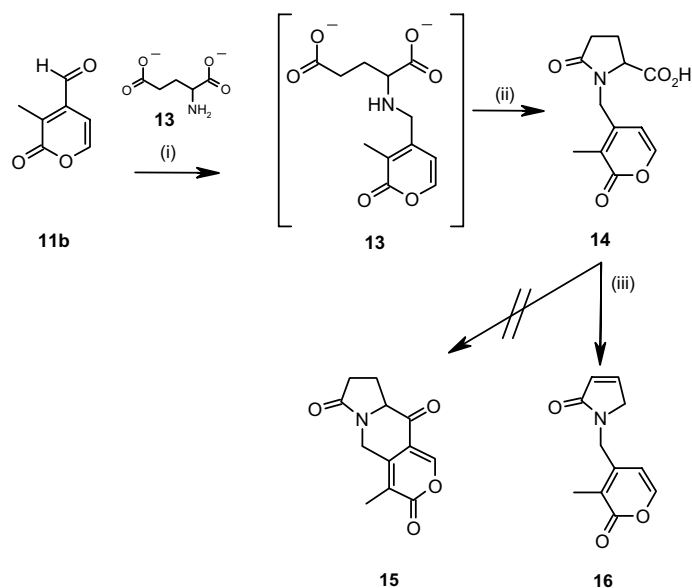
Because of our interest in pyroglutamic acid chemistry,¹⁰ we realized the NaBH_4 reduction of the aldehyde group of **11b** (which led to 80% of alcohol **12**) and then the reductive alkylation of glutamic acid (Scheme 4). In that reaction, it is better to use the di-sodium salt of glutamic acid¹¹ than to start from the di-triethyl ammonium salt.¹² Indeed, removing triethyl ammonium salts from the crude acid **14** proved to be difficult. The substituted glutamic acid intermediate rapidly cyclized into pyroglutamic acid **14** that did not yield ketone **15** under Friedel–Crafts conditions: decarbonylation of activated acid **14** yielded an iminium salt that evolved to ene lactam **16**¹³ (Scheme 4).

3. Conclusion

The easy synthetic pathways described in this work can now be considered as useful tools for the synthesis of α -pyranones-4-carboxaldehydes.

4. Experimental

Melting points were determined using an Electrothermal apparatus and are uncorrected. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian Gemini 2000 at 200 and 50 MHz, respectively. IR spectra were realized in ATR mode on a FTIR Bruker Tensor 27. Thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated Kieselgel 60F₂₅₄ plates. Microanalyses were performed by the 'Service Central de Microanalyses of CNRS in Vernaison, France.



Scheme 4. Reagents and conditions: (i) (a) NaOH/MeOH/H₂O, 20°C; (b) NaBH₄, 0°C; (ii) HCl, reflux; (iii) TFAA, BF₃/ether.

4.1. 4-(Dimethoxymethyl)-3-ethyl-2H-pyran-2-one 7a

A stirred mixture of aldehyde **1** (23.1 g, 0.174 mol), ethyl Meldrum's acid **9** (R = Et) (30 g, 0.174 mol), TMEEA (29.1 g, 0.087 mol) in THF (300 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was evaporated, the solid residue was washed with ethyl acetate, the organic phase was washed with slightly acidic water, then dried (MgSO₄). The yellow oil obtained after evaporation was purified by chromatography (200–400 mesh SiO₂, ethyl acetate/heptane 30:70), leading to 80% of acetal **7a** as a yellow oil, TLC *R_f* [ethyl acetate/heptane 70:30] = 0.45; IR ν cm⁻¹: 1770, 1710, 1630, 1560; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 2.58 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 6H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 12.6, 19.8, 53.4, 99.0, 104.7, 129.2, 146.8, 147.7, 162.8.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₄O₄, 0.5H₂O: C, 57.96; H, 7.30; O, 34.74. Found: C, 60.37; H, 7.39; O, 32.18.

During the reaction, it is possible to observe a 50:50 mixture of *E/Z* addition compounds **10a**:

E-**10a**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 2.19 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (s, 6H), 5.47 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 10.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H). *Z*-**10a**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm: 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.75 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.29 (s, 6H) 5.79 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 9.83 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H).

4.2. 4-(Dimethoxymethyl)-3-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one 7b

This compound was obtained as for acetal **7a** (reflux 90 min, yellow oil, 90%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.14 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 6H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₂O₄, H₂O: C, 53.46; H, 6.96; O, 39.56. Found: C, 53.12; H, 7.17; O, 39.79.

4.3. 4-(Dimethoxymethyl)-3-phenyl-2H-pyran-2-one 7c

This compound was obtained as for acetal **7a** (reflux 72 h, yellow oil, 65%); IR ν cm⁻¹: 1712, 1635, 1558, 1443; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 3.28 (s, 6H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.46 (m, 5H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₄, H₂O: C, 63.63; H, 6.10; O, 30.27. Found: C, 63.27; H, 6.38; O, 30.48.

4.4. 3-Ethyl-2-oxo-2H-pyran-4-carbaldehyde 11a

A mixture of acetal **7a** (30 g, 0.151 mol) and trifluoroacetic acid (20.2 mL, 0.263 mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 45 min. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂, washed with water, then dried (MgSO₄). The organic phase was evaporated leading to a solid, which was recrystallized from ethyl acetate, giving a 90% yield of aldehyde **11a**; mp 35–36°C; TLC *R_f* [ethyl acetate/heptane 70:30] = 0.50; IR ν cm⁻¹: 1715, 1690, 1625, 1570, 1480; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 2.98 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 10.33 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 14.3, 18.4, 101.5, 137.5, 139.9, 148.8, 163.0, 188.6.

Anal. Calcd for C₈H₈O₃: C, 63.15; H, 5.30; O, 31.55. Found: C, 62.97; H, 5.54; O, 31.42.

4.5. 3-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-pyran-4-carbaldehyde 11b

This compound was obtained as for aldehyde **11a**, mp (ethyl acetate) 116–118°C; IR ν cm⁻¹: 1700, 1683, 1627, 1540; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.42 (s, 3H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 10.36

(d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 11.0, 101.5, 131.9, 140.3, 148.5, 163.6, 188.5.

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{O}_3$: C, 60.87; H, 4.38; O, 34.75. Found: C, 60.71; H, 4.38; O, 34.68.

4.6. 2-Oxo-3-phenyl-2H-pyran-4-carbaldehyde 11c

A solution of acetal **7c** (5.6 g, 0.023 mol), in a mixture of CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL), water (20 mL) and 36% HCl (22.3 mL, 0.23 mol), was stirred at room temperature for 68 h. The organic phase was washed with water, dried (MgSO_4) and then evaporated. The solid obtained was recrystallized from ethyl acetate, mp 167–168 °C; IR ν cm^{-1} : 1712, 1683, 1624, 1550, 1443; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 6.72 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.54 (m, 5H), 7.55 (dd, $J = 5.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 9.75 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 102.0, 128.4, 129.3, 130.1, 131.0, 134.4, 141.2, 150.5, 162.3, 190.1.

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$, $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 61.02; H, 5.12; O, 33.86. Found: C, 60.81; H, 4.96; O, 34.21.

4.7. 4-(Hydroxymethyl)-3-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one 12

Sodium borohydride (0.10 g, 2.6 mmol) was added to a cooled (0 °C) solution of aldehyde **11b** (0.4 g, 3 mmol) in methanol (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and then the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate and the solution was acidified with 1 N HCl. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate and the combined organic phases were dried (Na_2SO_4) then evaporated, leading to 80% of alcohol **12** as hygroscopic crystals, which were not analyzed, IR ν cm^{-1} : 3390, 1680, 1625, 1550, 1380; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 2.02 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 1H, deuterium oxide exchangeable), 4.60 (s, 2H), 6.53 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H).

4.8. 1-[(3-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-5-oxoproline 14

Aldehyde **11b** (2.5 g, 18.1 mmol) in methanol (30 mL) was added to a stirred solution of glutamic acid (5.3 g, 36.2 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (2.9 g, 72.4 mmol) in water (10 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and then cooled at 0 °C. NaBH_4 powder (0.17 g, 4.5 mmol) was slowly added while keeping the same temperature. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then acidified (pH 1) with 1 N HCl, giving a mixture of acids **13** (diacid form) and **14**. The mixture was refluxed for 2 h, water was evaporated and the residue was stirred with acetone. After filtration of solids and drying (MgSO_4), the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by chromatography on SiO_2 (ethyl acetate/MeOH 50:50), giving acid **14** (80%), which was recrystallized from acetone, mp 181–182 °C, TLC R_f [ethyl acetate/MeOH 50:50] = 0.45; IR ν cm^{-1} : 1740, 1710, 1690, 1635, 1190; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.08–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.37–2.65 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 2H, deuterium oxide exchangeable), 3.95 (dd, $J = 8.2, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_5$, H_2O : C, 53.53; H, 5.62; O, 35.65. Found: C, 53.19; H, 6.01; O, 35.92.

4.9. 1-[(3-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1,5-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 16

This is the lone product identified by NMR when a mixture of acid **14**, trifluoroacetic anhydride and boron trifluoride etherate were reacted in diverse conditions; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ ppm: 2.09 (s, 3H), 3.93 (t, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 6.02 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.27 (tt, $J = 9.7, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (tt, $J = 9.7, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H).

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